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A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

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Senator Jane Vialle. See page 208. Photo by Blackstone Studios, Inc.

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Senator Jane Vialle

SENATOR JANE VIALLE, who represents the Africans of Ubangi-Shari, French Equatorial Africa, in the Council of the Republic (equivalent to the American Senate) was in New York City during the month of March as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Slavery of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Although Senator Vialle has traveled a great deal and lived both in Africa and France, this was her first trip to America. What impressed her most in New York City, she said, was the kindness of the man in the street, the large number of colored people she saw everywhere, the weather (which was cold at the time), and our skyscrapers.

Mme. Vialle was born forty-four years ago in the Middle Congo, French Equatorial Africa, of a French white father and a native mother. She was taken as a girl to Paris where she received her primary and secondary education, graduating from the Lycée Jules Ferry. Before the war she was a staff writer reporting African news for the Opera Mundi News Agency. In 1940 she joined the underground Resistance movement in Marseille and was arrested in 1943 when the Germans occupied that city. She spent a year in concentration camp and prison. She was later awarded the Medal of Resistance for her activities.

ON NEWSPAPER STAFF

After Liberation Mme. Vialle joined the staff of the independent liberal daily, *Combat,* then edited by Albert Camus. She followed closely the debates on the reorganization of the French colonies into the French Union. She entered politics by chance in 1945 as result of a tour through Senegal with Deputy Leopold-Sedar Senghor. Her speeches on the educational and economic needs of the African people made such an impression that the next year she was elected to the Council of the Republic as one of the two representatives of Ubangi-Shari. She was re-elected in 1948 and is one of seventeen women in the 320-member Council. The territory she represents is about the size of our own state of Texas with a population of 1,060,000 Africans.

Most Americans are familiar with Ubangi-Shari only as the home of the "platter-lipped" or "duck-bill" women, usually members of the Sara tribe. But these women are no more representative of the people than

(*Continued on page* 268)

■ How an intelligently led fight helped a community to integrate its schools

Exit Jim Crow Schools In East St. Louis, Illinois

By Gloster B. Current

JIM CROW schools no longer exist in East St. Louis, Illinois. When 106 Negro students of that city took their rightful places in the classrooms of the formerly all-white schools on January 30, 1950, the fight of the local NAACP branch to break down segregation had been won. There were no incidents, no excitement. The Negro pupils were accepted as fellow Americans. The schools affected by this change in an 85-year policy of segregation were the Senior High School; Rock and Clark Junior High; Alta Cita, Park, Monroe and Webster Elementary Schools.

The admission of colored pupils, however, was not done as a result of a sudden conversion to democracy on the part of the local school authorities. It took the push of good hard American dollars to make them see the light. Faced with the loss of $677,989.00 a year in state aid under terms of an act denying funds to school districts which practice discrimination, and badgered by persistent NAACP demands, the E. St. Louis Board of Education at a special meeting on December 20, 1949, voted unanimously to discontinue segregation at the start of the second semester in 1950.

What was the sequence of events in this drama? Behind it lay the effective utilization of legal and social action techniques by the local branch and its militant president, David Owens; and its colorful attorney, Billy Jones. The peaceful admission of Negro students to the white schools on January 30 of this year was markedly different from the wild scenes which greeted their attempt early in 1949 to enter these same schools. At that time three groups of students, accompanied by their parents and NAACP representatives, sought and were refused admission. (See *Crisis*, March 1949.) Formal refusal did not faze them for a minute. They entered the buildings and seated themselves in

GLOSTER B. CURRENT *is director of branches NAACP and a frequent* Crisis *contributor.*

the empty classrooms of the white schools although no teachers were assigned to them. The next day they returned and repeated the same tactics.

MILITANCY TOO MUCH

Such militancy was too much for the white high school students. They were afraid of democracy. Their solution was a strike. One hundred of them picketed the school and later marched to the city hall in protest against attending school with Negroes. Caught in the disturbance, the colored students had to be escorted from the building by police. To the white community, the action of the Negroes was rebellion. Aroused by this unprecedented step on the part of its formerly complacent Negro citizens, community leaders suddenly discovered all sorts of hobgoblins in the community. Dire consequences were predicted by the E. St. Louis *Journal*, and community leaders if the NAACP persisted in its efforts to end a community institution—segregation.

The white answer to the problem was the conventional one — divide and rule. All the old techniques were brought into play in an attempt to disunite the Negro community. Whenever an organization with northern headquarters takes aggressive action in a community which has been influenced by southern patterns of thought, the proponents of the status quo usually throw up a smoke screen decrying "radicalism." The slogan of "rash" and "radical" was raised by the president of the School Board and representatives of the local Chamber of Commerce. It came near catching some Negro leaders off base, to the extent that a few citizens, under their influence, took up the cry—"Rash," "Radical." But the entire Negro community, led by the NAACP, joined hands and became united in a crusade to end segregated schools. Leftists who sought to use the issue were disavowed by the branch.

SUIT FILED

A suit was filed in St. Clair County Circuit Court February, 1949, by NAACP attorneys in behalf of the Negro pupils who had been denied admission to the schools. Circuit Judge R. W. Griffith dismissed the case November 8, 1949, on technical grounds. In doing so, the Court held that "the members of the Board of Education have a duty imposed on them . . . not to exclude from such schools, directly or indirectly, any such child on account of its color." This decision gave community leaders and the Board of Education an "out." They explained to the community that the unlawful policy of segregation had to be done away with either by Board action or that it would be outlawed ultimately by court action.

But community leaders did not reach this conclusion entirely on their own. They got considerable "help" from the NAACP.

While the case was pending in court, the branch used a number of other methods to mould a favorable climate of opinion. Conferences were arranged with the editor of the E. St. Louis *Journal*, who was at first hostile to the branch's position, but later became convinced of the wisdom of a new policy and through the paper's editorial columns joined

with the anti-segregation forces in the community. The branch hammered away in press releases and in public meetings that segregation in Illinois schools was contrary to law, and would not be sustained by the court.

Branch tactics were not always understood. At one crucial point, some acts of the branch were misinterpreted. While the legal suit was pending, branch officials decided not to make another attempt to enroll students in the white schools at the beginning of the new semester in September, 1949. This was done in order to give the court an opportunity to rule on the merits of the case. Between February and September, branch strategy had succeeded in weakening the defenses of the Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce, the local daily press, and all others favoring segregation. Efforts of the School Board to use a Negro principal, for example, to convince colored parents that the old policy should be maintained were successfully combatted in the Negro community by the educational campaign of the branch.

VERBAL PROMISE GIVEN

A verbal promise was made by School Board officials and community leaders that if the NAACP refrained from encouraging Negro pupils to attempt to enroll in the white schools at the beginning of the term in September, the Board would permit students to attend schools in their own districts at the beginning of the January semester. School officials felt that they needed time to educate the white community to the proposed change in order that the transition could take place without arousing racial ill-feeling. Convinced that the school officials were acting in good faith, branch officials agreed to this proposal.

Despite this agreement, one colored parent attempted to enroll his child at one of the white schools in September. The child was not admitted, causing some people in the Negro community to call the agreement a bad compromise. The branch and national office, in a joint statement, pointed out that the "NAACP must uphold the right of any individual to apply for entrance to any school, especially in states such as Illinois where laws make segregation in the schools illegal. The NAACP branch and national office will not become a party to any compromise concerning removal of segregation in the public schools. The implementation of the non-segregated policy is the responsibility of the Board of Education." The program of integration was termed a "reasonable approach." The statement also made it clear that "this program does not mean any individual citizen can be denied his right to claim immediately admission if he chooses to do so."

A joint committee of NAACP officials, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, the police commissioner, the president of the First National Bank, the editor of the E. St. Louis *Journal*, and representatives of the Board of Education was formed and drew up a formal plan of integration. Concessions were made in the use of facilities formerly denied Negro students of the all-colored school. The curriculum of the colored high school was im-

proved. The School Board agreed to use Negro workmen in repair work.

NEWSPAPER HELPED

To aid in this program, the editor of the *Journal* promised to run a series of articles designed to change public opinion. The Chamber of Commerce promised to educate community groups to accept the new policy, when announced.

Every effort was made by branch and police officials, the press, and responsible citizens to prevent rumors from spreading. For example, on complaint of the NAACP, police arrested a white woman who had been spreading malicious gossip by telephone that "there was going to be racial trouble at a football game." The NAACP was praised by the daily press for its efforts in seeking to prevent trouble.

Immediately after the announcement of Judge Griffith's decision, November 8, 1949, the E. St. Louis *Journal* followed through on its promise to conduct an educational campaign with an editorial declaring that though the suit was dismissed on a technicality, "the ultimate result will be inevitable, Illinois law being what it is. There should be no need for further litigation. . . . We must face this problem now."

The next day the president of the Board of Education, Miss Bernice Goedde, made an appeal for peaceful public acceptance of a non-segregated school system. Speaking before the Edgemont Parent-Teachers Association, she quoted that section of the judge's opinion which referred to the duty of the Board of Education not to exclude children from the schools because of color and indicated that the change in policy would take place February 1, 1950.

Miss Goedde did not sound like the same person who, a few months previously, had opposed NAACP tactics. In an about-face statement in the *Journal*, she asked the public to avoid any unpleasantness at the time of the change-over and to accept the new system with good grace. Meanwhile, NAACP leaders announced that contemplated action to tie up the state-aid school funds would be held up pending outcome of the announcement by the Board of Education of its official policy to integrate the schools.

On December 20, 1949, the Board of Education voted formally in a special meeting to comply with the provision of the Illinois School Code and end segregation on January 30, 1950. In order to transfer to the new schools, pupils had to file notice with the authorities twenty days before the beginning of the semester.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TAKEN

NAACP officials took extra precaution to insure compliance with the twenty-day rule by getting in touch with the parents of all children eligible to transfer to the white schools. The School Board established a committee to work with the Committee of NAACP and community leaders to advise the public of the change and to help keep down racial friction.

Copies of the School Board's resolution were sent to fraternal, civic, labor, religious, business and serv-

(*Continued on page* 268)

Fashion Notes

All previews of this year's spring styles stress two facts. No startling innovations are to be expected, but one may look for no end of fresh innovations. The fullness of previous seasons has given way to flowing lines. And capes and capelets add fluidity to the pencil-slim lines of suits and dresses. There's a "little boy" look in youthful styles to balance the bloused fullness of the shirtwaist dress.

Everything, from rounded shoulder, small waist, to natural bust line, accentuates the eternal Feminine.

Hemlines are fourteen to fifteen inches off the floor. For the evening mode there is the short dress in simple cocktail or formal dance version. But for big party nights the long gown is still the favorite.

By and large, there seems to be a strong tendency to white in Spring fashions. You'll find it in white frame necklines and edge cuffs. White buttons add a finishing touch. Gloves and parasol are likely to be white. Already the little white hat has put in its appearance.

A few examples to be noticed in the Easter Parade include:

A navy and white checked wool dress, treated casually with hip and breast pockets, and including a touch of white pique at collar and cuffs to add a brisk crispness to its general brisk effect.

A white cape collar of pique on a sleeveless blouse. The waist length jacket and skirt with pointed pockets is of gray wool.

A white pique petal collar framing a square-cut necklines on a smart afternoon frock of navy faille, with snowy cuffs repeating the point, will be another parade stopper on Easter day.

For an effect of youthful charm, there is the exaggerated Buster Brown collar of white pique on a belling double breasted jacket of gray tweed. The jacket emphasizes the slenderness of the skirt.

A soaring white hat adds the completing touch to a winged collar of immaculate white on a sand-colored wool dress, topped by its own little jacket. White appears in the linen revers and sleeveless blouse on a suit of beige linen.

In general, gray, navy, sandy-beige or black, provide the smartest background to give the full effect to the dazzling flurry of snow. But, as Summer nears we shall see the bright colors . . . the brilliant coral, the aqua, the soft yellows, all accentuated by white.

It's your Spring, your Summer. Be sure to make it your's.

■ How Benjamin Banneker proposed to stop war

A Secretary of Peace

By Jesse Zimmerman

AS far back as 1794, a few years after the establishment of the American Republic, the need for fashioning a lasting instrument of peace preoccupied men of good will. In a changing world, brought on by the concept of democracy already beginning to find expression in both the Old and New Worlds, they were disturbed by unwarranted wars of aggression then being carried on against the Indians.

Conspicuous among such men, a contemporary of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin, was a Negro astronomer, almanacker, and watchmaker who lived in the Patapsco Valley of Maryland. His name was Benjamin Banneker.

One summer day, in 1794, Banneker was heading towards Ellicott's store, passing through the vast valley which stretched away from his one-room log cabin, where the aged astronomer lived simply and devoted himself to his astronomical and other studies. He cut a fine figure for a 62-year-old man; he was large, and, although inclined to obesity, stood perfectly erect. A fine head of white hair surmounted his unusually broad forehead, and the lower part of his face sloped tenderly towards his chin. His clothes were scrupulously neat; he wore an old style plain coat made out of superfine broadcloth, a straight collar, and a long waistcoat. His head was covered with a broad-brimmed hat such as worn by the Quakers.

He crossed one of the numerous streams that cut through the rolling, hilly topography, walking along and pondering over many problems that were troubling him. War and slavery were everywhere. America was constitutionally a republic, but where was the freedom which had been promised to the Negro slaves? And where was peace, with the nation at war against the Indians?

As Banneker walked slowly alongside his scrawny pack-horse, an animal very necessary in a period when not a single road existed over which even a wagon could travel, a thought churned sleeplessly in his mind. His brilliant mind was in the stars, but his feet were on the ground, and the star-gazer felt disposed to put aside, at least temporarily, the astronomical

JESSE ZIMMERMAN, *a frequent contributor to the magazines, lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.*

considerations that were then absorbing his waking hours to the exclusion of everything else. He felt that he must do something for his less fortunate neighbors and leave the stars to their Maker.

This sounded like good judgment to him. There was, indeed, much to be done for his less fortunate Negro neighbors. He was luckier than most of them, for he was among the 8,000 free Negroes in Maryland. But many thousands of Negro slaves found themselves in a sad plight, for the Declaration of Independence had meant nothing concrete to them.

BORN FREE

Banneker had been born free, the son of a free man, and fortunate enough to taste abundantly of those blessings which proceed from the unequaled liberty with which he had been favored. At that it had not been an easy row for him to hoe, even though born a free man. He could remember the many years he had spent on the farm, working from sunrise to sundown, and the many hardships he had to undergo. His black skin, after all, had been a decided liability, inspiring uncalled-for prejudices in bigoted white neighbors.

There had been times when he had concluded to curtail his studious endeavors because the neighbors were objecting. Gradually, because of applying himself too diligently to astronomy, he had lost the good will of both Negroes and whites. It had gotten to be a serious problem, the way some of his neighbors spoke ill of him. Some of them actually went so far as to persecute him. They stole his horse, tried to burn down his log cabin, and caused him other little inconveniences.

Now he was on his way to the Ellicott's store because he reasoned that more frequent visits there would assist him in recapturing the good will of his antagonistic neighbors. Certainly, he concluded, they were not intentionally malicious. They simply did not know any better.

George Ellicott had advised him to pursue this line of readjustment, and, George, in his opinion, knew best. Ellicott had always looked out for Banneker's interests, and understood him far better than anybody else.

During earlier manhood, when he had manifested a keen interest in mechanics, Banneker had contrived the first clock ever made in America. It had proven to be an excellent timepiece, and was considered one of the marvels of the day by everyone who saw it. It had kept accurate time for more than twenty years. That was, perhaps, the first occasion on which his neighbors were excited to admiration by his brilliance. Later, by degrees, his reputation had spread through a wide circle, and, despite his youth, they began to consider him as a man who could not only perform with extraordinary facility as an arithmetician, but also as an ingenuous man who could exercise a sound and discriminating judgment on man and his behavior.

IMPORTANT OUTCOME

The most important outcome from his clock-making, however, had been the fact that it had brought him to the notice of the Ellicott family, which had established Ellicott's Mills

shortly before. The three Ellicott brothers were millers from Pennsylvania, and they had set up their flour mills along the Patapsco River in Maryland between 1772 and the American Revolution. They had become the backbone of the country's industry, maintaining grist and saw mills, stores, iron works, a rolling mill for sheathing copper, and a granite quarry. In the main, the three brothers were responsible then for the revolutionary shift from the cultivation of tobacco, for which the planters reaped slow returns from European agents, to the raising of wheat and corn, for which they found a ready market nearby.

SKILLED MECHANIC

In need of a skilled mechanic, they had sought out Banneker and employed him in that capacity. This meeting with the Ellicotts had proved of signal advantage to Banneker. They were peace-loving Quakers, foresighted, progressive and open-minded, and free from current prejudices against the Negroes. They did not permit the difference of skin color to erect any barriers between him and themselves. Not only did they receive Banneker on an equal basis, but, more important still, favorably encouraged his talents, lending him books and giving him formal instruction.

George Ellicott, a son of one of the brothers, paid particular attention to Banneker's development. George was not a stiffnecked Quaker, but lively and graceful, and on the whole followed the Cavalier tradition. He was tolerant of all good materialistic things in life and was far more receptive to the pleasures, frolics, gayety, and relaxation offered by the theater, music and literature than the stiffnecked, religiously bigoted Quakers.

As a result of his close association with George Ellicott, Banneker's mind soared more freely through space, and dwelled in the regions of stars and planets. And his star gazing was what was worrying his neighbors.

It was ten o'clock when Banneker reached the store, which was built of triangular stone quarried from nearby granite hills. Purchases for economic and household purposes were made there. Every description of farming implement, ranging from a rake to a plough, were stored in suitable compartments. Articles of fine delicate quality were kept either in drawers or behind sashes of glass to prevent the accumulation of dust.

Banneker threw the reins of his horse over the hitching-post, and made his way to the door. A group of white men and several Negroes were inside. He could not help overhearing the tag-end of an argument that was taking place within. A white man was remonstrating with a husky young Negro about taking up his musket and following the militia the next time it marched against the Indians. The Negro was determined not to join the militia, pointing out that he had fought the Tories for liberty and independence, and he had gotten neither of them. George Ellicott agreed with him.

FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

"I'll say he's right," Banneker said, slowly entering through the doorway.

The air was stagnant with heavy clouds of smoke which, originating in the pipes and handmade cigarettes of the lounging customers, swirled in a dense fog about the store. The tobacco they were smoking was raised in the immediate vicinity.

BANNEKER'S REPLY

In reply to a query as to what he meant, Banneker pointed out that the Negro people had long labored under the abuse and censure of the world. How could anyone echo the lofty sentiment expressed so aptly in the Declaration of Independence, about the right of every man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, when multitudes of Negroes were still enslaved under a chattel system maintained and perpetrated, not by the absentee rule of the English Tories, but by the Republic itself?

Many regiments of Negro troops, Banneker pointed out to his listeners, had fought boldly for liberty and independence; they were brave, hardy troops who believed they were fighting for their freedom when they shouldered muskets in the American army. Their bones whitened every Revolutionary battlefield. Their toil had helped to build every fortification south of the Potomac. They had shared the famine, nakedness and horrors of Valley Forge. And for such loyalty they were rewarded with slavery!

One Sunday afternoon, a few days later, the venerable star gazer was sitting underneath a large chestnut tree. The almanac he had written and a flute lay on the ground beside him. Banneker was an ardent lover of music and owned a violin in addition to the flute.

The tree shaded him from the hot sun rays, and he was grateful for the shelter afforded by it. His head ached from worrying too much about the Indian War. If only he could devise a means to end the terrible war against the American aborigines.

Racking his brain futilely for an idea with which to promote peace, he gave up finally and picked up his flute, piping on it for a few minutes. Wearying of it, he laid it down and leaned back against the tree. Repose, if only he could find repose somewhere. He tried to sleep, but couldn't.

BANNEKER'S PEACE PLAN

George Ellicott soon joined him under the tree. After exchanging pleasantries, Ellicott sat down beside him and started to fumble with a tuft of grass. "You know, Ben," he began, "I've been thinking hard about this war with the Indians. I'm really afraid it might spread . . ."

"Much to the delight of the war-makers." Banneker trembled. "They're guided more by blind passion and greed than by any settled plan of conduct."

Ellicott exclaimed bitterly that they were waging war not for democratic principles, but for autocratic rule, because they were Tories at heart.

Both sank into a thoughtful silence, which was broken by Ellicott when he said, "If only the Secretary of War would . . ."

He was interrupted by Banneker before he could finish his utterance. "I have it!" the astronomer exclaimed suddenly. "The very thing! If a

Secretary of War, why not a Secretary of Peace?"

For a moment Ellicott creased his brow thoughtfully. "Yes, why not?" He nodded in agreement, and his eyes were alive with excitement.

Banneker got up and went into his log cabin. Sure, that was the answer. If a portfolio of war, why not a portfolio of peace? So he sat down at his crude log table and drafted out his peace proposal, in which he suggested that the Federal Government should establish a portfolio of peace in the cabinet, and a secretary ranking equally with the other cabinet members should be placed in charge of it to negotiate peace treaties with the Indians. He elaborated on the duties of such a secretary, and strongly urged the government to formulate a comprehensive plan by which a lasting peace might be substituted for the wars disturbing the world.

Thus, at a time when universal war "tried men's souls," a peace plan was advanced by a relatively obscure but nonetheless great Negro astronomer. Much to his disappointment, however, despite his strenuous efforts to have his proposal adopted, nothing came of his plan. It was pigeonholed, and his efforts to persuade the government to create a department of peace bore no fruit. So he turned more and more to astronomy for solace.

During the remaining eight years of his life, the man who had published his first almanac in 1792, and had become known in Europe as the "African Astronomer," devoted all of his time to the study of astronomy. In 1806 he died at the age of seventy.

DID YOU KNOW—

★ ★ ★

That the famous Haitian writer and scientist, Jacques Roumain (1907-1944), wrote his early works in German and then translated them into French? Roumain received most of his early education in Germany and for many years afterwards was more at home in German than his native French.

★ ★ ★

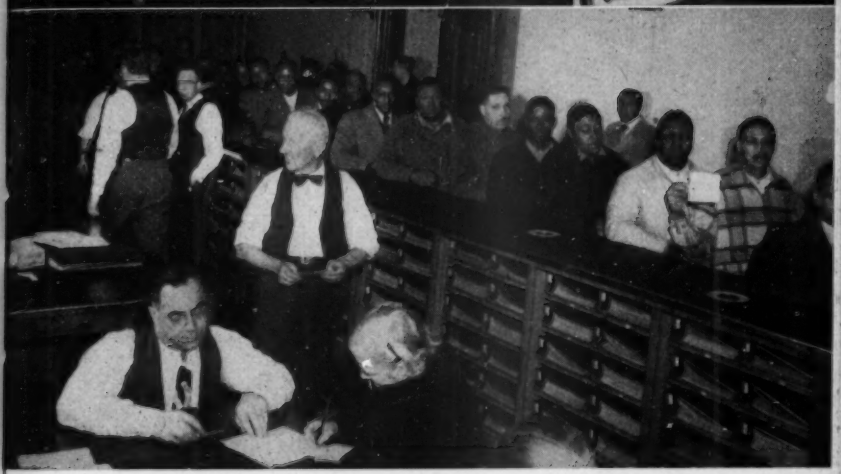
That the Haitian Creole is said to be the only language actually created in the New World? Creole, the language of the Haitian masses, is a fusion of Norman and Angevin, with Spanish and English words, used after an African grammatical pattern.

★ ★ ★

That there is no uniform definition of "Negro" in the United States? Even state statutes and court decisions do not agree.

★ ★ ★

That the first Spingarn medal winner was the late Dr. Ernest E. Just, head of the department of biology at Howard University? He was awarded the medal in 1915.



"VOTE FOR FREEDOM"—*Immediately following the trek of* 1,000 *Maryland delegates to the Civil Rights Mobilization in Washington, D. C., the Baltimore branch started its get out the vote campaign to take care of those Maryland congressmen who were chilly toward FEPC legislation. Out for* 10,000 *new voters, the vote registration committee is shown with their chairman, Attorney Robert B. Watts, examining the ward and precinct maps of the city. Guides have been stationed at the City Court House where new voters are registered.*

Bottom: These veterans registering at the Baltimore City courthouse were among the first 1,000 *new voters registered during the first ten days of the drive.*

William A. Graham

NAACP DELEGATES AT YOUTH CONFERENCE—*Among delegates attending the Young Adult Council conference at Howard university, Washington, D. C., February 12-13 were, L. to R.: W. W. Law, NAACP board of directors; Faith Bradley, NPAC, Bucknell; Aurelio Sterling, NPAC nad president New York City NAACP youth council; background: delegates from American Youth Hostels, Inc., and YMCA Council.*

■ Mexico says something interesting on the race problem

Little Black Angels

By Gina Cerminara

THE popular songs of most countries are to a large extent preoccupied with love. In the United States, in particular, popular song-writing is an industry which caters almost entirely to adolescent sentiments. Seldom do we hear a song which is meaningful at a level above that of the expression of personal moods or the problems and pleasures of romance.

This is one reason why it is so refreshing to become acquainted with the recent Mexican song, "Angelitos Negros," or Little Black Angels. But more than refreshing, it is exciting. For here is a popular song that actually gives expression to sociological and aesthetic thought concerning the race problem. It does so simply and unselfconsciously, without once using the words "brotherhood" or "democracy." It merely asks a question: Painter, why do you always paint angels white? Why don't you sometimes paint little black angels?

GINA CERMINARA, *a free lance, lives in Los Angeles, California.*

Perhaps one reason for the sensational success which the song has had all over Latin America is the fact that its sentiment rang warmly true. Both the words and the music were written by men who, though white, had convictions on the race problem. Andrés Eloy Blanco [1897-], a Venezuelan poet of some note [*He won first prize in the Juegos Florales in Caracas in 1916, and carried away first prize in the poetry contest of the Spanish Academy in 1923.* Ed.], wrote the poem *Pintame Angelitos Negros* and published it in a collection of his poetry. By itself, *Paint Me Little Black Angels* soon achieved a certain fame.

But publishing poetry nowadays, as Don Marquis once remarked, is like dropping a rose petal into Grand Canyon and waiting to hear the echo. *Paint Me Little Black Angels* might have drifted gently into this kind of relative obscurity had it not been discovered one day by Manuel Maciste, Mexican-born singer and composer.

Maciste, who has written more than 200 songs, many of them top

tunes in Mexico, had spent some time in the United States where he appeared as a singer in several American movies. (*The Firefly*, with Jeannette MacDonald; *Viva Villa*, with Wallace Beery; and others.) His native Mexico is almost totally free of race prejudice; but while working in Hollywood and touring the United States with night-club shows, Maciste had opportunity to observe how wide is the gap between the professions of democracy and its practices as far as racial brotherhood is concerned. Once, in Philadelphia, he observed a heavy-set white man throw a slight Negro girl to the sidewalk. Infuriated, Maciste came to blows with the man, and then returned to his room to write the words and music of a song which he called "Almas Blancas," or White Souls. ("Because my skin is dark the white man despises me—I don't know why. . . . My body is black but my soul is white. Their body is white, but sometimes their soul is black—fatal contrast.") The song became popular in Mexico and in Paris.

DISCOVERS POEM

Then, in 1944, Maciste came across the poem *Paint Me Little Black Angels*, and became excited with its simple and tender theme. "Painter, born in my country with a foreign brush; painter that follows the path of so many old painters; even though the Virgin was white, paint me some little black angels, because all the good little Negroes go to heaven, too. Painter—if you paint with love—why do you despise their color, when you know that the Lord wants them in heaven also? . . .

THE LITTLE GIRL, *Helen, noting that her mother caresses and exclaims over the beauty of a friend's white baby, puts powder on her face in a wistful attempt to win her mother's love.*

Every time you paint a church you paint beautiful little angels. But you never remember to paint a black angel." [*The complete poem is included at pages* 208-210 *of Emilio Ballagas'* Mapa de la Poesía Negra Americana. Ed.]

Maciste set the words to music and submitted the song in Max Factor's contest for the best song of the month, held at radio station XEW in Mexico City. The song took first

ANA LUISA AND JOSE CARLOS *have frequent bitter quarrels over her cold treatment of her child. She has always disliked Negroes, and still has not been told the truth of her own origin. She thinks her husband has colored blood.*

prize, and from then on it skyrocketed to popularity not only in Mexico but also in all Latin America. It was especially successful in countries where there exists a large Negro population and an accompanying racial problem, such as Venezuela, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. When Maciste visited Cuba last year he was given a wildly enthusiastic reception by the Cubans, and particularly the Afro-Cubans, who idolize him as the composer of a kind of hymn of brotherhood. Even in Paris, France, the song has been acclaimed. Josephine Baker sings it with an accompaniment of fifty violins.

The radius of *Little Black Angels'* influence, however, was not to stop with the ardor of Latin Americans to sing the song or to hear it sung and played. With the vitality and life-giving quality of all true works

A LITTLE *Negro baby is born to blonde Ana Luisa and her fair-skinned husband, José Carlos. Ana Luisa did not know that her Negro nurse and servant, Nana, was in reality her mother.*

of art, *Angelitos Negros* soon became the inspiration for other works of art.

MURAL COMMISSIONED

Irène de Bohuss, a French painter, was commissioned to do a mural in the studio of a fashionable French modiste. The artist, under the influence of Maciste's song, gave a prominent place in the mural to a group of angels, in which black angels were prominent among the others. In Mexico, many tombstone sculptors have taken inspiration from *Angelitos Negros* to carve little Negro heads in their portrayal of cherubs. It is reported also that

in Brazil a new Catholic church authorized Negro angels to be included in its murals—an artistic departure even in racially democratic Brazil.

Perhaps even more far-reaching an artistic consequence of *Angelitos Negros* was the production of a movie bearing the same title and utilizing the song as an expression of its theme. Joselito Rodriguez, of the Rodriguez Brothers Productions in Mexico City, had long felt that a movie could and should be made on the race problem. When the song *Little Black Angels* began to sweep the country, Rodriguez' creative imagination was stirred and his resolution to make a movie along these lines was re-enforced. But he met with opposition.

In the first place, Mexican movies concern themselves, for the most part, only with comedy, romance, and the history and folklore of Mexico; seldom is there produced a movie which comes to grips with any serious problems of social significance. Moreover, though there exists a good deal of class snobbery in Mexico, there are few Negroes there and almost no racial prejudice to speak of. For these reasons Rodriguez' producer brothers were strongly opposed to the venture he had in mind, largely on the grounds that it could not possibly be a box-office success.

WROTE SCRIPT

Despite this opposition, Rodriguez proceeded to write a script and to get the movie into production. After a four year struggle, the movie was finally produced in 1948; but it was further handicapped by the reluctance of the other Rodriguez brothers to give it much advertising promotion and throw, as they still thought, good money after bad. However, as often occurs in the entertainment world, the unexpected happened. The name *Angelitos Negros* had already endeared itself to millions of people. The drawing power of the title alone was no doubt a large factor in the high attendance records of the movie when it was first shown. But then the movie began to stand on its own merits as a beautiful, a moving, and a significant film.

Soon it was breaking box-office attendance records not only in Mexico, but in all other Latin American countries, as well as all Spanish-speaking portions of the United States. So great has been its popular acclaim, in fact, that the movie will soon be given a complete new French sound-track for France, Switzerland, Canada, Turkey, and the Near East, and a Portuguese sound-track for Brazil and Portugal. Italian sub-titles will be put on the film strip for distribution in Italy and its colonies; and in the United States, English captions are now being prepared so that the movie can be shown within a few months in special-run theatres and Negro neighborhoods.

MOVIE PLOT

The plot of the movie is as follows: Ana Luisa, a beautiful blonde school-mistress, meets and falls in love with José Carlos, a popular Mexican singer. They marry and a baby daughter is born. To the horror of Ana Luisa—who is highly prejudiced against Negroes and has

(*Continued on page* 266)

Courtesy G. Schuyler

CARNIVAL IN THE CARIBBEAN—*The gorgeous pageantry of the carnival flowers, usually, between Epiphany, January 6, and Shrove Tuesday. Celebrants deck themselves out in their gaudiest and most imaginative costumes and then combine Africa and Europe in their revels. Habana, Cuba, however, enjoys the added attraction of the* comparsas. *The* comparsas *or groups of masked merry-makers celebrate on five successive Saturday nights just before Lent. The custom dates from slavery days when the slaves were allowed one day of release a year. Whether Haiti, Cuba, or Trinidad, the mood is one of exuberant joy.*

ABOVE: *President Dumarsais Estime, of Haiti, greets the queen of Jacmel in the National Palace. Below: The float of the queen of the Near East Colony at Port-au-Prince, Haiti.*

Courtesy G. Schuyler

HABANA, CUBA—*The Negro queen of the carnival and her maids of honor. Pictured from left to right are Caridad Rios, Esther Casanova, "Queen" Cristina Ruiz Cuesta, Delia Alacan, and Mercedes Mendoza. Trinidad can boast the gaudiest costumes and the most exciting parades. And the weird variety of the music matches the razzle-dazzle of the costumes as the masqueraders move through the streets of Port of Spain. These revelers represent the historical band, "Sampson and Delilah."*

■ **Margaret Webster's "The Taming of the Shrew" canceled because of Negroes in cast**

Shakespeare Play Barred In Southern College

MARGARET WEBSTER'S production of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" was barred in February from giving performances at Northwestern State College, Natichitoches, Louisiana, because of the presence of two Negroes in the cast.

Miss Webster's traveling company had been booked at many universities throughout the country and a date for performance had been set at the Northwestern State College for February 2, 1950. On January 5, 1950, Dr. Sherrod Towns, head of the Music Department of the College wrote a letter to Miss Webster, in which he said:

Dear Miss Webster: It has come to us by the grapevine that there are two Negro members in your troupe, which will appear here on February 2 in 'The Taming of the Shrew.' Accommodations for them have been secured in the home of Dr. Johnson, a physician, and one of our most prominent colored citizens.

We are certain that you can understand and appreciate our concern over the particular parts these two people are to play. Unfortunately, we feel that we are entirely too far in the Deep South to have them appear on the stage. While this letter is not the place or occasion to philosophize on the evils of segregation, suffice it to say that to date, Negroes have not appeared in our auditorium (in companies of their own, much less in mixed groups), and we frankly feel that the time to begin the practice in this area has not yet arrived.

Miss Webster replied on January 10 by letter:

Your letter is the first objection that has come to me from anywhere in the South (or anywhere else) and I fail to see the grounds for it as it does not seem to me a segregation question at all. As far as I am concerned it is wholly an artistic one. I have cast the two Negroes for the sole reason that I thought they were the best possible actors for the particular parts they play and without regard to their race. The part of Biendello, the Page to Lucentio, is beautifully portrayed by Austin Briggs-Hall. The Haberdasher and one of the Lord's servants are also to my mind, finely done by Edmund Cambridge.

Dr. Towns then wrote on the letterhead of the Northwestern State College to the National Concert and Artists Corporation, which booked the engagements for Miss Webster's company. He said in his letter of January 13, 1950:

It appears that both your organization and Miss Webster should consider realistically conditions this far in the deep South, and should have enough consideration for us to discuss such matters with us in advance. Our institution is for young ladies and young gentlemen of the white race and, without expressing any opinion one way or the other about segregation, we are compelled to consider the ideas and sensibilities of our students, their parents, and others in this area.

We have written Miss Webster requesting that she recast the minor parts played by the two colored performers, without result. If we are to continue our hitherto pleasant relations we ask that you discuss this matter with Miss Webster and see what can be done before we consider taking steps to cancel the contract.

Mr. Louis Nizer, acting as attorney for Miss Webster, then telephoned the president of Northwestern State College, Dr. G. W. McGinty, and pleaded with him to avoid a controversy which would be shocking to the democratic institutions of the American people and also would financially injure the tour of Miss Webster's company. In a letter dated January 18, 1950, addressed to President McGinty, Mr. Nizer wrote:

I telephoned, and I write, in the spirit of friendliness and with a sincere desire to avoid an unnecessary controversy. We have been informed by Dr. Towns that Miss Webster's production will be canceled because two members of the cast are Negroes. There are two parts in Shakespeare's comedy portraying a servant of Tranio and another a page who is the liveried servant in the house of the lord where the play within the play takes place. These two roles are portrayed by Negroes. They are, as this brief description has indicated, rather insignificent parts, although interwoven with the action of the play so that they cannot be eliminated without affecting the performances of the main characters.

There is no problem of segregation broached by the facts as I understand them. The sole question is whether two roles, in substance that of servants, may be portrayed by Negroes on a stage and viewed by an audience irrespective of what its opinion about race questions may be. As we were originally informed, the Negro actors will be housed in a distinguished Negro physician's home in your community during the brief period of the visit. . . .

Since I do not believe there is any issue affecting the sensibilities of your citizens or students, I have scrupulously avoided discussing any racial question or the right or wrong of it. On the other hand, candor compels me to state that if this matter is not handled with discretion and some statesmanship, it is likely to be misunderstood and to become a scandalous affair receiving national attention. Furthermore, the cancellation, and the reverberations therefrom, may seriously affect the company's tour and result in substantial financial injury.

I am certain you will also give sympathetic consideration to the very nature of Miss Webster's enterprise. It is one conceived out of love for art, stimulated by Miss Webster's universally recognized qualifications for interpretation of Shakespeare, and dedicated to bringing the most worthy artistic and educational works to the doorstep of students and citizens everywhere. . . .

However, the Northwestern State College advised that it was canceling the engagement. It claimed that it had been advised by the attorney-general of the state on the basis of "general laws" in the state of Louisi-

(*Continued on page* 270)

Acme

ADMITTED TO BAR—*Mrs. May Harris, of Philadelphia, Pa., is sworn in by Judge Adrian Bonnelly (left), in his chambers, as an attorney. Holding the Bible is Joseph A. Dunn, court crier.*

DID YOU KNOW—

That the term Jim Crow is the name of an old Negro song dating back to 1838? It was first used circa 1861 to designate a railroad car set aside for Negroes, and not until 1903 did it acquire its present meaning of things set aside for the exclusive use of Negroes.

★ ★ ★

That the NAACP has won more than thirty odd teacher-salary equalization suits?

■ This is Guanajuato where life is simple and easygoing

Paradise Down South

By Minor Neal

THERE is a southern paradise for Negroes, especially if they are artists with a halfway substantial income. William Byers, an art student from Washington, D. C., found that paradise just a little bit south of "the South" in the mountainous state of Guanajuato in Mexico. There he discovered the ideal spot in the historic old town of San Miguel de Allende.

A year ago William, or "Wild Bill" as he has been nicknamed by his fellow students, was an ex-Navy pharmacist's mate working on a civil service job in his hometown and attending night classes to further his art education. He read in a nationally-circulated magazine about an art school in Mexico and decided to go. The article gave a glowing account of life at the school and praised the place as a GI paradise. That was enough for Bill. The idea was so appealing that he began preparations for the journey. Six weeks later he arrived in San Miguel, his trunks full of art supplies and jazz records. He fell in love with the town immediately, its quaint buildings, its cobblestone streets, and the picturesque customs of the natives. In three weeks time he had filled as many sketchbooks and was painting canvases with a gusto that would have made Rembrandt sit up and take notice. It was certainly Bill's idea of paradise.

He registered at the school, the Escuela de Bellas Artes, and learned that he was the only Negro in town. It was a unique situation and Bill, being the adventurous sort he is, decided to make the most of it. He visited hotels, restaurants, and all of the public places he could find. Then he was satisfied. There was not a hint of discrimination anywhere. He knew he must be in paradise.

But what really clinched the matter was the low living expenses in San Miguel. Bill, a GI student, lives comfortably on his monthly subsistence allowance and is able to save up to one half the amount he receives. At an exchange rate of seven pesos to the dollar, he considers himself wealthy. And, in a country where day laborers receive as little as fifteen cents a day, he is wealthy indeed.

MINOR NEAL *is an art student at the Escuela de Bellas Artes of Guanajuato, Mexico.*

It required some searching but Bill finally found the house of his dreams. It has nine rooms, studio, patio, and a huge corral for garden and domestic animals. And the beauty of it all is that he rents it for less than ten American dollars a month. For cooking, marketing, and housework he has hired an Indian maid at the accepted wage of four dollars per month. At first there was the inconvenience of antiquated plumbing but Bill remedied that; he sent to Mexico City at once for modern plumbing and had it installed. Now he enjoys all the comforts of home for about one-fifth the cost.

EXOTIC FOODS

He has learned the exotic foods and their preparation, so he dines like a king. He never ceases to be amazed at the difference in food costs as compared to those back home. He buys fresh meat, the best cuts available, for twenty cents per pound. Eggs cost thirty cents a dozen and bananas two cents a pound. Pineapples are ten cents apiece and chicken fryers cost fifty cents each. Every imaginable kind of tropical fruit, mangos and papayas, for example, sell for only a few cents per pound. It is nothing to carry home two large shopping baskets filled to overflowing with delicious fruits and vegetables without having spent one American dollar.

And foodstuffs are not the only cheap items. Bill pays fifteen cents for a haircut and the price of admission to a motion picture is ten cents. When dining out he pays fifty cents for a huge steak dinner with all the trimmings and he can buy imported rum for less than two dollars a gallon. He is presently replenishing a war-depleted wardrobe since he learned that it is possible to have a suit of the finest materials tailored.

SPORTS AVAILABLE

Bill has found the sports of San Miguel to his liking. Besides bull fighting and rodeos, in which he is content to remain only a spectator, there are participant sports like swimming, riding, and fronton, or Mexican tennis. Bill is a good athlete and already he has been elected captain of a soccer team and has joined the school's baseball nine. Lately he has become instrumental in organizing a boxing team, which he hopes will arouse a more defined local interest in the sport.

His main interest, though, is the jazz and bebop sessions held two or three times each week by those students who exchange records and gather for rum cocktails and music. Bill is an authority on jazz. He played a "mean" saxophone in the nightspots of seaboard cities before the doctors ordered a well-deserved rest for his heart and lungs. At the present time he is studying the influence of American jazz on popular Mexican music.

Bill is one of the most popular students at the school. His indomitable spirit and personality have won him friends from both the Mexican and the state-side groups. He is tall, handsome, and has the sensitive features of an artist. He dresses with the immaculate suavity of a Beau Brummel. At dances he is out-

standing with fancy steps which range from sentimental waltzes to a "real-gone" camel walk and applejacking.

If Bill did not decline he could spend seven nights a week attending local fiestas but that, he says, would complicate matters in this country where life is traditionally simple and easygoing. For awhile Bill was escorting one of the town's dark-eyed beauties to all of the fiestas but that, too, complicated things, especially when he began thinking seriously of the girl friend back home.

MEXICAN TOURS

Bill has taken this chance of a lifetime to tour Mexico. He and his friends get together on share-the-expense trips to various scenic and historic points throughout the country. He also accompanies the school sponsored tours to more remote and distant points. So far he has seen everything within a two-hundred mile radius of San Miguel. Just recently he returned from a school sponsored trip into Western Mexico where the group visited Morelia, Patzcuaro, the island of Janitzio which is rich in folklore and legend, Uruapan, and the new volcano, Paracutin. Of them all Bill was impressed most by the volcano. He claims it has something of early American Jazz in the color and spontaneity of its spectacular eruptions. It is almost a monthly occurrence for him to travel the two hundred miles to Mexico City for art supplies and to see the bullfights or recent American films. He is waiting until time to renew his student permit at which time he plans to visit the Central American republics of Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

These side trips afford Bill with an opportunity for sketching and painting. And Mexico is full of the quaint subjects he likes to paint: Indians, native ceremonies, and some of the world's most elaborate architecture. Also, for the more exotic of his paintings, he can hire native models for a fraction of the fee it would cost an artist in the states. His favorite subjects are people: beggars, fruit vendors, children, old men, and aged crones who inhabit the tumbled-down adobe huts on the outskirts of San Miguel. He is presently painting for an exhibition which he hopes will sell enough of his work to finance a trip to Paris.

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Bill began drawing before he can remember. He has sold cartoons and oil paintings which puts him on a professional basis above most of his fellow students. But he thinks that the life classes and his lithography class serve well to keep him in trim painting form. He has joined a mural group which, working under the supervision of David Siquieros the famous Mexican muralist, are now experimenting with a new kind of paint on a full room mural depicting the historical achievements of the Mexican national hero, Allende, and which will require several months to complete. He attends classes in the mornings and paints in his studio until siesta time in the afternoon. After that he goes sketching in the many paths and byways of the city, coming home with subject matter for future paintings. He makes a point of keeping his evenings free for

entertainment and still he finds plenty of leisure time for reading, sunbathing, and just relaxing.

Bill says that the school offers a magnificant opportunity for Negro students and he would like to share his paradise with others of his group. He wonders why other Negro GI's who are interested in studying art haven't investigated foreign schools, this one especially. There is always a need for models and the wives of GI students may attend classes tuition free, therefore adhering to that old adage that two can live as cheaply as one, which comes as near being true of San Miguel as anywhere else on the continent.

MISSES JAM SESSIONS

But Bill says he misses some of the advantages of the states, things which were once taken for granted and are practically non-existent in Mexico. When questioned his talk always reverts to jam sessions, hamburgers, American movies, and the girl friend back home.

But all in all, Bill is content with his newly-found paradise for he is getting more painting done than ever before in his life. He calls San Miguel the first great stepping stone in his career and he is warking hard to achieve success with his painting. As much as he would like to remain in San Miguel he is also anxious to go to Paris for more advanced study. And the day cannot be far away when his work will finance such a trip. Until that day arrives William C. Byers will continue with brush and easel in Mexico looking forward to the time when he can set foot in another paradise, Paris, the capital of France.

"The South has been kept 'solid' a long time by this one-party system which depends for its staying power on the highly emotional beliefs in states' rights and segregation."

Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*

★ ★ ★

"There is no race hatred because there are no races. Weak thinkers, lamp-thinkers, weave and produce races in the library, which the just, cordial and observing traveler seeks in vain to find in the justice of nature where the problem of the universal identity of man has been solved in turbulent appetite and vitorious love."

José Marti

★ ★ ★

Homer S. Brown of Pittsburgh is the first Negro to serve as a judge in the Allegheny County, Pa., courts. Judge Brown was elected to a ten-year term on the county court, defeating Judge Harry M. Jones.

Good News

George Brown, a junior at McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., is the newly elected president of the Platonian Literary Society. The Platonian is the 100-year-old literary society at McKendree, and Mr. Brown is the first Negro to be honored with the presidency.

★ ★ ★

For the first time since its organization the Loudon County, Virginia, Ministerial Association has elected a Negro as its president. The new president is Rev. A. N. Irwin, pastor of a local Middleburg church.

★ ★ ★

Mrs. Lillian W. Willis, Portsmouth, Virginia, was winner of the Pillsbury Mills' 80th cake-baking contest. Mrs. Willis won $200.00.

★ ★ ★

Gaston Monnerville, Guiana-born lawyer and Resistance hero who presides over the Council of the French Republic, upper house of parliament, was an official French representative at the inauguaration of the Bi-Centennial Expósition's foreign pavilions at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in February.

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One of the winners of the Heywood Broun award was Ted Poston, *New York Post* reporter. Mr. Poston, the first Negro reporter to win a Guild award, won recognition for his courageous coverage of the Groveland, Florida, trial of Walter Irvin, Charles Greenlee, and Samuel Shepherd, sentenced for the alleged rape of Norma Padgett. Mr. Poston won a $500.00 cash prize and a citation.

★ ★ ★

Isaac Austin, Jr., who received his A. B. degree last June from the University of Rochester, N. Y., has been awarded a year's scholarship at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, for advanced study in the German language and literature. The scholarship award was arranged through the Institute of International Education. Mr. Austin, who majored in German, received the Kreyer Prize in German. A native of Waco, Texas, Mr. Austin began his studies in Zurich last October.

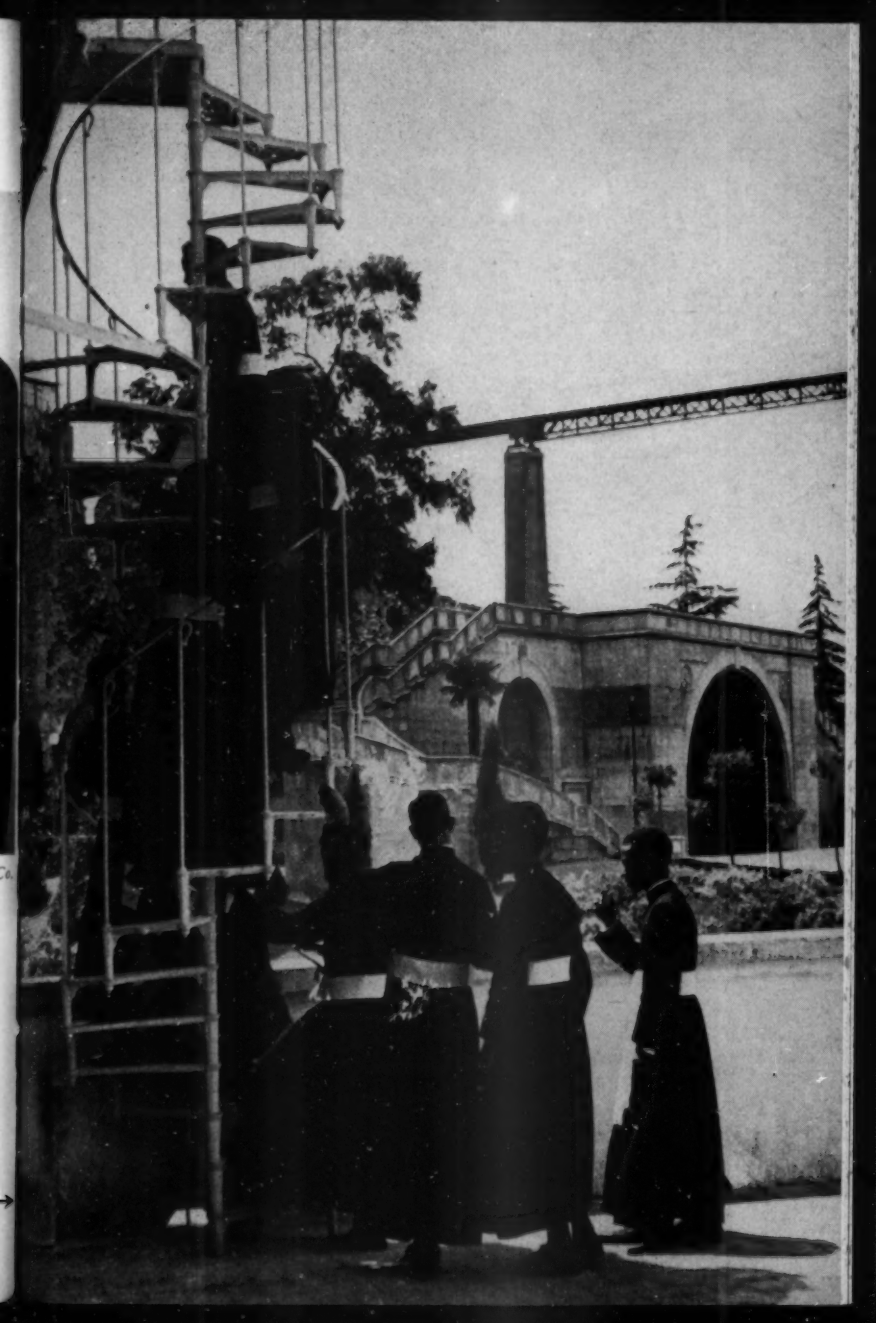
★ ★ ★

The Rev. Maurice A. Dawkins was installed in February as a member of the ministerial staff of the Community Church of New York City. He is the first Negro staff member in the 125-year history of the church.

Standard Flashlight Co.

DEAN J. CARMAN (*Seated*) *of Columbia College undertakes new task in supplementing insufficient scholarships for Negroes at non-segregated colleges as chairman of Supplementary Scholarship Fund newly established by the National Scholarship Service and Fund for Negro Students. Trustees of the fund, (standing L. to R.) are Frank T. Simpson, executive secretary, Connecticut State Inter-Racial Commission; Margaret Halsey, author; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, director John Hay Whitney Foundation; Mrs. Nathan Straus, vice-president WMCA; and Felice N. Schwartz and Richard L. Plaut, executive directors of the fund. Other trustees are Mrs. H. G. Hauge of New York City, and Dr. Channing H. Tobias, director Phelps-Stokes Fund.*

ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS *at the Vatican Seminary, Rome, Italy.* ⟶



Editorials

PUSH FEPC

THE FEPC fight is still a live issue despite House passage of the weak McConnell bill. Although the McConnell measure is unsatisfactory, it does serve to keep FEPC off the congressional shelf. Our chances for getting a strong bill through the Senate are favorable. The bill to come up in the Senate is the McGrath bill, S. 1728, which has enforcement powers. This bill is third on the Senate calendar and will probably come up for debate by the time this issue of The Crisis reaches our readers.

What the McGrath bill faces is a talking filibuster from the Southerners, with perhaps the connivance of some Republicans. Such obstruction would have to be stopped by cloture or limitation of debate. In this instance, two cloture votes would be necessary. One on the motion to take up the bill; and another, if the first succeeds, on limitation of debate on the bill itself. Since this is an election year, many senators will be home repairing their political fences. Even absence of a half-dozen northern senators might defeat cloture. But because this is an election year, we can remind these senators that failure to support cloture and FEPC will lose them Negro votes.

The NAACP board of directors has already gone on record in support of the McGrath bill: "Anything short of the McGrath bill or a bill with enforcement powers will be a disappointment to the NAACP and will be notice to us that the Senate does not intend to enforce a forthright, honest FEPC bill."

Write or wire your senator to support S. 1728, the McGrath bill.

REPUBLICAN "PRINCIPLES"

IF the Negro voter ever entertained any illusions about Republican "principles," they certainly vanished with issuance of the "Republican statement of principles" on February 6, 1950.

The GOP now openly favors business and property rights. That lets us know emphatically where the Party stands on human rights. Obviously, the national committeemen, the senators, and representatives who drew up the new declaration of faith have no desire to champion the cause of the common folk.

The party of Lincoln has come to a pretty pass when it welshes (as it does in section four on civil rights) on its own platform pledges. In 1948 the GOP solemnly promised support of FEPC, anti-lynching, and anti-poll-tax legislation. However, by 1950 the party achieves the vacuous "continue to sponsor legislation to protect the rights of minorities."

The Republicans controlled the 80th Congress but did nothing to pass FEPC or any other civil rights bills. After defeat of the anti-poll-tax bill in 1948 by a filibuster, the Republicans were the ones who promised a change in the Senate rules to make cloture easier. But when it came to a showdown in the 81st Congress what did the Republicans do? They joined

hands with their Southern colleagues to jam through the Wherry Amendment: a change that makes cloture all but impossible, filibustering easier, and civil-rights legislation that much harder to pass. Thanks to the Republicans!

The GOP has been giving Negroes the run-around on FEPC for a long time now. They joined with Dixie Democrats in 1945 to kill the wartime FEPC by chopping its budget. They have taken the lead in killing FEPC legislation in such states as Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and California. In the House vote on FEPC February 22, two-thirds of the Republicans joined the Dixiecrats to substitute the weak McConnell bill for the strong Powell bill. Judging by Republican performance, we conclude that the Party no longer regards itself as the "friend" of the Negro. Negroes know that a party which is unwilling to help remove the barriers to their employment is not friendly. Negro voters have long memories, especially where their jobs are at stake, and many of them will take care of their Republican "friends" at the polls.

SERETSE KHAMA

THE five-year banishment of chief-designate Seretse Khama by the British Labor Government is a political concession to the Union of South Africa. Race is there, too, but as the woof in the weave. Had Khama's wife been Bamangwato instead of European he would not be on the spot. Yet there is more behind the politics than meets the eye.

The South African Nationalist Government has seized upon Khama's marriage as an excuse for eliminating the Khama dynasty. With the chief-designate out of the way, and the former regent, Tshekedi Khama, forbidden to rule, the Union will find it easier to annex Beuchuanaland. The Nationalists have long advocated annexation not only of Beuchuanaland, but the other British protectorates of Basutoland and Swaziland. This additional 293,421 square miles of territory would give the Union 1,100,880 more Africans to plunder. Dr. Malan, present prime minister of the Union, makes no secret of these intentions. He was quoted in October 1949 as "getting impatient" about the slowness of incorporation of the protectorates and expects 1950 to bring a show-down.

Ironically, the British Labor Government connives in this policy. On every UN issue involving African colonial problems the British Labor delegate has been in intimate sympathy with South Africa.

There is strong circumstantial evidence, despite British denial, that Dr. Malan's *apartheid*, or racial segregation policy, provoked Khama's exile. Though Seretse Khama was legally elected chief by the Bamangwato *Kgotla*, or council of headmen, a British judicial commission at Serowe decided that neither Seretse nor his uncle Tsehekedi could rule. From the beginning the British government made it clear that it would consider the opinions of both Dr. Malan and Godfrey Huggins, the prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, before accepting the commission's recommendations.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hall Secured: Headquarters for the 41st annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be established in Convention Hall of the Mechanics Building in Boston, George Gordon, president of the New England Regional Conference of NAACP Branches, has announced.

All sessions of the convention, which opens on Tuesday, June 20, and continues through Sunday, June 25, will be held in the Convention Hall, except the Sunday meeting. Various committees have been appointed and preparations are being made for a large convention. The New England Regional Conference will be hosts to the convention.

FEPC

Organizations Rally: Urging continued and increased concentration upon the Senate for enactment of a strong FEPC bill, Roy Wilkins and Arnold Aronson, chairman and secretary respectively of the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization, have written to the sixty national organizations sponsoring the Mobilization.

The joint letter summarizes the developments in the fight for a federal law banning job discrimination since the Washington conference in mid-January, explained the vote on the bill in the House of Representatives, and warned of pitfalls in the Senate.

The McConnell bill, which was substituted for the Powell bill in the House "is *unsatisfactory* to all supporters of effective FEPC legislation," the letter says. "The Commission which it creates is empowered to make recommendations, not to issue orders, and it is utterly without authority to deal with those who choose to ignore or defy its recommndations," the letter continues.

However, Wilkins and Aronson point out, "passage of the bill serves two purposes: (a) it keeps the issue alive whereas recommital would have ended action for this session, and (b) it forces the Senate to act, which it would not have done had the House bill been killed. It was for these reasons that many of the staunchest supporters of FEPC, who opposed all weakening amendments, nevertheless voted against recommital and for the bill on final passage. It was for these same reasons that the Dixiecrats voted unanimously for recommital and against final passage. The basis on which to judge the

EXECUTIVE BOARD—*Members of the Bergen County, N. J., executive board after its first meeting on March 7 in Teaneck, N. J. Annual membership drive of the branch began on April 1. Seated (from L. to R.): Helen Washington, assistant secretary; Lawrence Kelly, vice-president; Ida Davis, president; Rev. C. M. Kirkpatrick, advisor, and Elenora Cowels, secretary. Standing: Matt S. Shaw, legislative chairman; Robert Cassius, publicity chairman; Granville Robinson, membership chairman; Rev. W. H. E. Smith, educational chairman; Mrs. Lillian Webber, treasurer; Louis Webber, housing chairman; Mrs. Gladys Flowers, membership chairman; and Mrs. Beatrice Davis, church chairman.*

action of your representative is the vote on the adoption of the McConnell amendment, not the vote on final passage."

The amendment, which displaced the Powell bill, was adopted by a vote of 221-178. "The friends of FEPC," the letter avers, "are the 178 Congressmen who opposed initial adoption of the McConnell amendment. These included 128 Democrats, 49 progressive Republicans and 1 American Laborite. The 221 Congressmen who supported the McConnell amendment included 117 Democrats, almost all from the South, and 104 Republicans. Adoption of the amendment was made possible by a coalition of Dixiecrats and reactionary Republicans."

The decisive test, Wilkins and Aronson indicate, will come in the Senate, where it is anticipated that an effort will be made to substitute the weak Taft bill for the McGrath bill with enforcement powers. "It is important to let your Senators know that you want them to support the McGrath bill in its present form and to oppose any weakening amendments," the letter warns.

In the Senate, "the prospects for favorable action depend in the first instance on our ability to secure the 64 votes necessary for cloture. There will have to be two cloture votes—the first on the motion to take up the bill and, should this succeed, a second to limit debate on the bill itself. The first task, therefore, is to get as many individuals and organizations as possible to write and wire their senators to vote for cloture on FEPC."

LEGAL

Groveland Case: Argument for reversal of the convictions of Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin, condemned to death in the Groveland rape charge frame-up, will be heard in the Florida State Supreme Court in Tallahassee, Florida, on April 13 with Alex Akerman, Jr., of Winter Park, Fla., and Franklin H. Williams, assistant special counsel for the NAACP, as attorneys for the condemned men.

Asking for a reversal of the lower court decision and a new trial for

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OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD—*Current officers and executive board members of the Madison, Wis., branch (seated L. to R.): Rev. James R. Love, second vice-president; Henry Grimes, first vice-president; Mrs. Bert Erickson, president Dagny Borge, secretary; and Irma Baker, treasurer. Standing: Mrs. Mary Simms, chairman publicity; Mrs. Agnes Hole, housing; Hilton E. Hanna, labor and industry; and Odell Taliaferro, program. Absent from picture are Lucille Miller, education; Attorney Anna Mae Davis, legal redress; and Cornell A. Johnson, membership.*

the pair, the attorneys, in a brief filed on February 18, raised six constitutional and legal issues which they allege were violated in the conduct of the trial.

The petition for a new trial was based on the following issues: (1) Denial of motions for a change of venue and for continuance of the case. (2) The validity of using the registration rolls as a source for the selection of jurors and of using race as a factor in making a pro rata selection. Negroes on the registration lists are in the ratio of 1 to 16 whereas in the total population of the county they are in the ratio of 1 to 4. (3) Denial of permission to subpoena the grand jury lists over a 30-year period. (4) Denial of the motion to withdraw the plea and set aside the arraignment to enable the defense to file pre-arraignment motions. (5) The beatings of the accused men by law enforcement officers. (6) The impossibility of the defendants committing the crime because of the time element.

The Groveland case attracted nationwide attention last Summer when a young white housewife claimed that she had been raped by four Negroes on a backwoods road early one morning. The charge initiated a reign of terror against Negro families in the area. One of the accused men was slain by a deputized mob. Three were arrested and convicted. Two received the death sentence and the third was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Separate Not Equal: The Government of the United States, in the friend of the court brief filed by Solicitor General Philip B. Perlman in the NAACP-sponsored Sweatt and McLaurin cases, urges the U. S. Supreme Court "to repudiate the 'separate but equal' doctrine as an unwarranted deviation from the principle of equality under law which the Fourteenth Amendment explicitly incorporated in the fundamental charter of this country."

"Under the Constitution," states the Justice Department's brief, "every agency of government, federal and state, must treat our people as *Americans*, and not as members of particular groups divided according to race, color, religion, or national ancestry. . . . If the Constitution is construed to permit the enforced segregation of Negroes, there would be no constitutional barrier against singling out other groups in the community and subjecting them to the same kind of discrimination."

The Solicitor General asserted that the case of Heman Sweatt, denied admission to the University of Texas law school because of his race, and that of G. W. McLaurin, attending the University of Oklahoma graduate school on a segregated basis, "are significant because they test the vitality and strength of the democratic ideals to which the United States is dedicated. Charging that these two are not isolated cases of discrimination but relate to practices engaged in by the States, the brief states that decisions in

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these cases may "have large influence on determining whether the foundations of our society shall continue to be undermined by the existence and acceptance of racial discriminations having the sanction of law."

"A basic postulate of democratic government," the brief concludes "is that a valid law must be enforced and obeyed, even by those who disagree with it. . . . Citizens and officials cannot be relieved of their obligation to respect the law, simply because they regard it as unwise or wrong. Nor can personal beliefs or prejudices justify failure to respect the legal rights of others. The right of all Americans to equal treatment under law is specifically guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. . . . To countenance disregard of such right is to sanction disrespect for law and thereby weaken the fabric of our society."

U. of Texas Chapter: With increase in nationwide interest in the coming argument of the much-discussed Sweatt case, scheduled for hearing before the United States Supreme Court on April 3, the University of Texas chapter of the NAACP began an all-out campaign to stir up student support for the admission of qualified Negro applicants to the university.

The NAACP chapter on the Austin campus initiated a new membership campaign and distributed leaflets calling on University of Texas students to band together to work for the following six-point program: (1) Immediate admittance of qualified Negro applicants on the same basis as white. (2) Hiring of Negro professors and staff members on the same basis as all other applicants. (3) Abolition of all forms of white supremacy and racist expression. (4) Full integration of Negroes, after their admission, and participation in all campus activities. (5) No discrimination in university residences. (6) Immediate addition of courses of study presenting the contributions of the Negro to American civilization.

The NAACP chapter at the University of Texas was organized as an expression of student interest in the admission of World War II veteran Heman Sweatt to the university law school. Similar interest is being expressed in the admission of W. Astor Kirk, Tillotson College instructor, to the University graduate school.

MISCELLANEOUS

NAACP Sunday: Observance of NAACP Sunday has been scheduled for March 5 in churches throughout the country.

On that day, religious leaders of all faiths "are asked to make a special effort to arouse the public conscience against glaring social injustices which still exist in our country, to cooperate more closely with the NAACP in its uncompromising fight against segregation and discrimination and to take up a special collection for this purpose."

Official Addresses Union: Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary, spoke before the civil rights conference of the United Steelworkers of America, CIO, and

bfore Local No. 74 of the International Hod Carriers Union, AFL. Mr. Mitchell outlined tactics for securing enactment of federal civil rights legislation.

Asks Hearing: A hearing on behalf of Eunice Griffin, office key punch operator who claims her discharge from her Board of Education job was brought about by racial discrimination, has been requested by Jack Greenberg, assistant special counsel for the Association.

Miss Griffin charges that no reason was given for her dismissal and that previously she had been subjected to derogatory remarks and accused of intentional injury by her immediate superior.

Wilkins on Coast: Roy Wilkins, acting secretary, held a series of conferences on the NAACP program in March with the executive committees of the San Francisco, Alameda County (Oakland), and Los Angeles branches. His West Coast tour included an addess at the West Coast Regional Conference in Seattle, Washington.

"According to certain writers and anthropologists, the Abyssinians, despite their obviously swarthy skins, are not 'Negroes'; and it is on this basis of not being 'Negroes' that they explain Abyssinian cultural development. Yet they will excuse invasion and exploitation of Abyssinia precisely on the ground that its people are 'Negroes' and African, offering the racial taint in justification. But let there be a clash between the interest of Europeans and Africans—or Asiatics or Indo-Americans—and all Europeans indiscriminately become whites (for it is now a question of the 'whites' against the 'colored'). But suppose the conflict is among these same Europeans themselves. What happens? A horde of anthropologists will rush forward, their arensals stuffed with anthropometric and morphological artillery, to prove to the *Nordic* European that he is beyond doubt a pure blond as luminous as the sun: whether he is the Mediterranean man, commonly classified as Negroid, or the Alpine, usually stamped as more or less mulatto."

Dr. Fernando Ortiz, *The Racial Hoax*

DID YOU KNOW —

That Panama hats are not made in Panama, but in Ecuador? They are called Panama hats because Panama is the chief center of distribution. The hats are made from a palm-like plant called *toquilla*, which grows wild in Central and South America. These hats are called *jipijapa* in Ecuador and Cuba, and sometimes *montecristi*.

What the Branches Are Doing

Florida: The NORTH RIVIERA branch is busy with plans for organizing a youth council. The project was initiated in February when the state executive secretary arranged for Annie L. Motley, adviser to the West Palm Beach youth council, to come out and speak to the young people in North Riviera.

On February 19 the POMPANO branch sponsored a special mass meeting at the Bethel AME chuhch. Special musical and literary numbers were rendered by the Pompano youth council under the direction of Mrs. Mary Groom. The principal address was delivered by Harry T. Moore, state executive secretary.

The state executive secretary has made contacts with branch officers and NAACP workers in Brevard county, Deland, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, and other places in District Five. A special effort is being made to revive the Daytona Beach branch.

Harry T. Moore, executive secretary of the Florida State Conference and the Progressive Voters' League, took issue in February with the junior senator from Florida on the civil-rights program. Mr. Moore pointed out the fallacies in the position of Senator Spessard L. Holland in regard to voting and other civil-rights matters.

Maryland: The BALTIMORE branch membership returned from the Civil Rights Mobilization and organized its "Vote for Freedom" registration campaign. Out for 10,000 votes, the branch vote committee has stationed guides at the City Court House to help registrants. More than 1,000 voters were registered during the first ten days of the campaign.

Michigan: Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan was principal speaker at the annual banquet of the BATTLE CREEK branch on March 2. He reviewed the fight he has made for enactment of a fair employment practices act in the state and pledged his continuing effort for legislation which will benefit all minority groups.

The auditorium at the Hamblin Community Center was filled practically to capacity for the event which marked the 41st anniversary of the organization of the NAACP.

Lieut.-Col. Roy K. Kauffman, commanding officer of the 30th AAA Battalion at Fort Custer, shared in the ovation given Governor Williams, in his discussion of the army's move to end segregation.

Colonel Kauffman described the army's new policy as "equal treatment and equal opportunity for all."

The banquet marked a rallying point of the branch in its fight for civil liberties. Attorney James R. Golden discussed the background of the organization, its aims and purposes, and urged all fair-minded persons to affiliate with the chapter. Many joined after the meeting.

George L. Maxwell, president of the branch opened the program and introduced visiting guests and officers of the chapter. Ross H. Coller was toastmaster.

During the program, Mrs. Kathleen Farley sang Gershwin's "Summertime," and bowed out to an ovation. She was

Gessling

BROTHERHOOD POSTER AWARD—*Huntington, Long Island, N. Y., branch poster awards went to (L. to R.) Barbara Ericson, Lee Fish, Roberta Brayton, first prize high school; Alphonse Bare, one of the three judges; Sandy Maguire, Elizabeth Hammer, Barbara Crawford, first prize junior high school; and Dr. J. Jeffrey Higgs, speaker at junior high school.*

accompanied on the piano by John Johnson.

New York: The HUNTINGTON LONG ISLAND branch sponsored a poster contest in the art departments of the junior and senior high schools during the first term of the 1949-50 school year. The theme was stated as follows: to illustrate the importance to our American way of life, of friendship, justice, and equal opportunity for all people, regardless of race, color or creed. A gift to the branch of $50 from Mrs. Ethel Clyde, always a good friend in need, was distributed in first and second prizes. The contest ended February 1 and the awards were presented in special assemblies, worked out by the branch committee in cooperation with the principals of the high schools, during Brotherhood Week.

The speaker at the junior high school was Dr. Jeffrey Higgs, 1949-president of the branch; Rev. B. C. Burton, the new president, being out of town at-

BRANCH BANQUET—*Pictured at the banquet of the Battle Creek, Michigan, branch on March 2 are (L. to R.) George L. Maxwell, branch president; Governor G. Mennen Williams; Mrs. Williams; Lieut.-Col. Roy K. Kauffman, commander of the 30th AAA Battalion at Fort Custer; and Arttoney James Golden.*

tending a church conference. Dr. Higgs outlined the history of the NAACP, now celebrating its fortieth anniversary, as well as its purposes and methods.

The awards were then made by Alphonse Bare, one of the members of the jury, the others being Creig Flessel and John J. Klaber, all residents of Huntington. Mr. Bare, a well-known illustrator, explained the decisions of the jury, which were based not only on artistic merit, but also on pertinence to the theme of the contest. First prize was awarded to Barbara Crawford; second prize, Sandy Maguire honorable mention, Barbara Ericson. The assembly concluded with the showing of two short motion pictures: "The House I Live In," starring Frank Sinatra and pointing out how citizens of all origins have contributed to the growth of America; and "One People," an animated cartoon on the same subject, with Ralph Bellamy as narrator.

The high school assembly featured Mrs. Ruby Hurley of the staff of the NAACP as the main speaker. Creig Flessel, a member of the jury, presented first prize to Roberta Brayton; second, to Sue Mae Lee; and honorable mentions to Lee Fish and Elivabey Hammer. The fifteen posters entered

INDIANA CONFERENCE—*At top are delegates and visitors to the Indiana State Conference of Branches which met in Gary, Indiana, December* 2-4, 1949. *Bottom: Members of the executive committee of the Kansas City, Mo., branch for the year* 1950.

in the contest in each school were displayed in the library and class rooms of the schools during Brotherhood Week. They were later exhibited in the churches and are now on display in prominent windows in the business section of the town.

North Carolina: The CHARLOTTE branch has announced a ten-point program to improve living conditions for Charlotte's 45,000 colored citizens. Executive secretary of the branch, Kelly Alexander, has publicized the following aims: (1) Construction in the Brooklen area of a low-cost housing project for low-income Negroes; (2) provisions for membership of Negroes on the local schoolboard; (3) industrial-vocational schools for Negroes; (4) broader opportunities for Negroes in industry; (5) street improvements in Negro areas; (6) broader opportunities for Negro business men (1) softening of racial differences in the use of drinking fountains and removal of racial signs in bus stations; and comfort stations for Negro patrons in the uptown area.

Installation of officers of the Charlotte branch were made by L. E. Austin, editor and publisher of The Carolina Times, Durham, N. C. Rev. J. B. Humphrey, pastor of the First Baptist church was installed as president, to succeed, N. W. Dixon; and T. E. Gilbert Jr., as first vice-president. Other officers include Jacob Thompson, recording secretary; Mrs. Laura Price, assistant recording secretary; and Rev. H. W. Givens, chairman of the executive committee.

Pennsylvania: The CHESTER COUNTY grand jury, sitting in West Chester, refused to return indictments against two Oxford businessmen charged with violating the Pennsylvania civil-rights law. The case was brought against Chris Vergis, owner of the Oxford Hotel Coffee Shop, and Joseph Crowl, manager of the Oxford Theatre, by students of

Lincoln university who were refused service at the coffee shop and were directed to sit in the section of the theatre designated for colored persons.

District Attorney John M. Kurtz, of West Chester, explained to the jury that the 1939 statute prohibited discrimination in public places because of race or color. The jury found that Crowl and Vergis had not acted illegally after 45 minutes' deliberation.

Students bringing the action, all members of the Lincoln university Chapter of the NAACP, were Jacques E. Wilmore, Philadelphia; Benjamin Helman, Bloomfield, N. J.; Ralph Anderson, New York City; and Gayraud Wilmore, of West Chester. Three faculty members were called as witnesses at the hearing. They were Dr. Joel Dialam, Professor of Economics; Dr. David Swift, Professor of Religion; and Mr. Bernard Barrow, Professor of English.

Students and faculty at Lincoln expressed resentment over the results of the trial, and promised further action to eliminate segregation in Oxford.

Tennessee: Rev. S. S. Hodges of the JOHNSON CITY branch was the branch official representative at the Civil Rights Mobilization in January.

Southwest Region: Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, was the main speaker at the third annual Southwest Region NAACP Conference held in Dallas, Texas, March 25-26. This was one of Attorney Marshalll's first public appearances in Dallas after arguing the important Sweatt case before the U. S. Supreme Court the week of March 20.

The conference attracted some 200 delegates from branches in all corners of the five states making up the region: Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. All business sessions of the conference were held at the Salem Baptist church, 710 Bourbon Street.

Dallas: In an effort to raise NAACP membership in the five states of the southwest region to at least 50,000, three veteran campaigners have already taken the field for the spring member-

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NAACP *chamber chorus has a monthly program over Station WFDR.*

Richards

SHORTLY BEFORE HE SPOKE *at a civil-rights rally on the Syracuse university campus, Franklin H. Williams (Center), assistant special counsel NAACP, huddles with Alan Bergmann (Left) and Sandy Perry. Bergmann is program director and Perry president of the Syracuse university NAACP chapter, sponsor of the rally. The rally was held December* 15, 1949.

ship drive. And a fourth will soon be added.

Mrs. Lulu B. White, former executive secretary of the Houston branch, has been appointed regional field secretary and will conduct membership drives in the cities of Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Monroe, La.; Texarkana, Ark.; and Tulsa, Okla. Mrs. White is currently in Baton Rouge in charge of campaign efforts expected to reach at least 600 members.

Mrs. J. E. Craft of Dallas, state organizer for Texas, has been assigned a schedule for nine Texas branches in the Gulf and East Texas areas. She began her assignments February 19 and her work, as well as the work of the other field workers, will extend through the middle of June.

Third of the drive directors now actively campaigning is Donald Jones, regional secretary who, between February 12 and June 6, will work with the cities of San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Austin, Oklahoma City, Tyler, Pine Bluff, Little Rock, and Shreveport. He has already completed ten days in San Antonio, where the drive is confidently expected to reach 2,000 members.

Later in the spring, Daniel E. Byrd, field secretary now working out of the national office, is to direct the New Orleans campaign, with a goal of 10,000 members.

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College and School News

THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE AND FUND FOR NEGRO STUDENTS announces establishment of a supplementary scholarship fund for Negro students. The new fund is intended to supplement present inadequate scholarships won by Negro students at interracial colleges and universities.

■

Goals for American Education, a symposium of papers and comments by sixty-five leading educators and men of public affairs, was published in March by the CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION. Basis for the volume is a collection of formal statements on fundamental educational policy discussed at the ninth annual session of the conference held in New York City last September.

■

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE was recipient in February of a $10,000 gift from the college alumni association. This gift from graduates brings up to $30,000 the monies received during the past two and one half years for the improvement of the college library.

■

TOUGALOO COLLEGE celebrated Negro history week, February 12-

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18, with a display of books in the college library and a play by Randolph Edmunds entitled *Nat Turner*.

■

Intramural directors from twelve colleges and universities met at DILLARD UNIVERSITY February 22-23 and organized a National Intramural Association. The idea grew out of a study made by William N. Wasson, director of intramurals at Dillard.

■

Lillian Smith, famous author, was a recent speaker at ROOSEVELT COLLEGE on the subject of segregation. "One talks of doing things for the Negro, but within the framework of segregation," she says. "There is no such thing as separate but equal."

■

A recent speaker at SPELMAN COLLEGE was Kurt Singer, author and lecturer. Mr. Singer spoke on the conflict between Russia and the West. He believes that the next war will not be between the East and the West, but among the sixteen nations of the Soviet Union, who will eventually find it necessary to fight to maintain their national existence.

Among recent artists at Spelman have been Ella Bowman, pianist; and Carol Blanton, pianist and a graduate of the college.

■

The SPELLMAN COLLEGE glee club is featured in the new *Encyclopedia Britannica film* "Your Voice" as one of the two examples of a vocal music employed to illustrate the use of the voice in singing. The selection by the Spellman glee club is "Feeble Body," a Negro spiritual arranged by Willis L. James, director of the glee club.

Mr. James has achieved a nationwide reputation as a composer and arranger of Negro folk songs. Among his better known works are "Po' Little Jesus" and "Roun' de Glory Manger," both of which are Christmas spirituals.

■

Graduate scholarships for 1950-1951, ranging from $50.00 to $200.00 are available at ATLANTA UNIVERSITY for men and women who are eligible for study beyond the bachelor's degree. The five schools of the university offer graduate and professional study in such areas as biology, chemistry, economics, English, French, mathematics, political science, sociology, and anthropology.

The university center observed Negro history week on February 12 with a roundtable on the air. Participants were Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick, librarian of the college; Dr. Margaret Nelson, professor of history at Morris Brown; and Clarence A. Bacote, professor of history at Atlanta.

Negro artists are invited to participate in the ninth annual competitive exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and prints sponsored by the university. For the eleven best works of art submitted, in the opinion of the judges, Atlanta university, will award cash prizes totalling $1,400.

Lillian Smith spoke at the university in February on the white man's problem, discussing the ideas which support the barriers between the races in the South.

■

The Atlanta University Women's Club award for 1949 went to Mrs. Cecil Long Edwards of Atlanta, Ga., a graduate student of the university

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Lincoln University, Pennsylvania

who is preparing for a career as a specialist in speech correction. Mrs. Edwards, a native of Atlanta, is a graduate of the Spelman high school and Atlanta university, and is currently on leave from the Atlanta public schools to study speech correction and audiology in Illinois.

■

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY'S (Pa.) Dr. Harold F. Grim, dean and professor of biology for thirty-eight years, was recipient of the Abraham Lincoln award at the annual founder's day dinner of the university. The award was made in tribute to Dr. Grim's record of having trained over thirteen percent of the nation's physicians. Dr. E. P. Roberts, oldest practicing Negro physician in New York City, and a graduate in the class of 1891, received a similar award.

■

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Language Association (formerly the Association of Teachers of Languages in Negro Colleges) was held at ALABAMA STATE COLLEGE, February 24-25. Officers of the Association are Dr. Hugh M. Gloster, president, Hampton Institute; Dr. N. P. Tillman, vice-president, Atlanta university; Dr. Theressa Wilson Brown, secretary, Miner Teachers college; Dr. John F. Matheus, treasurer, West Virginia State college; and Dr. Frederick Dedmon, chairman committee on academic recognition, Morgan State college.

The National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars observed its annual meet at the college March 22-24.

■

Five radio broadcasts featured 94th founders' week at WILBERFORCE

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UNIVERSITY in February, with the principal address being delivered by Attorney Charles W. Anderson, assistant commonwealth attorney of the state of Kentucky. The institution was founded in 1856, and named after William Wilberforce, British philanthropist, after its purchase by the AME church in 1863.

■

Dr. A. Elder, president of North Carolina College at Durham, was a guest speaker at a ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE morning chapel service on February 14 held in observance of Negro history week.

■

Attorney Charles H. Tuttle, counsel for THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA, has filed a brief on behalf of his organization in opposition to racial segregation in education in the Heman Sweatt case. Sweatt was denied admission to the law school of the University of Texas.

■

TALLADEGA COLLEGE is offering a competitive all-expense scholarship examination to eligible high-school seniors in thirteen southern states. This is the thirteenth consecutive year this examination has been offered. Top-ranking student in this examination receives an all-expense scholarship, renewable each year if his achievement warrants it.

The little theatre of Talladega continues to win plaudits for its high level of performance. A Steinway concert grand piano has been presented to the college by Dr. T. K. Lawless, an alumnus, distinguished dermatologist of Chicago.

"The Church and Christian Growth" was theme of religious emphasis week held at the NATIONAL BAPTIST MISSIONARY TRAINING SCHOOL, March 6-10, with the Rev. David R. Hedgley, pastor of the First Baptist church, Winston-Salem, N. C., as principal speaker. Assisting him was Winifred Burroughs, assistant principal of the Suehn Industrial Mission, Liberia, West Africa. National Baptist Missionary Training School day was celebrated on February 19.

■

New president of the PHELPS-STOKES FUND is Dr. Emory Ross, who succeeds I. N. Phelps Stokes. Dr. Ross, executive secretary of the Africa Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and a member of the board of trustees of the Phelps-Stokes Fund since 1941, has served successively as secretary and vice-president and has had broad experience in matters relating to the missionary movement in Africa.

■

Lillian Smith was charter-day speaker at the 83rd anniversary founding exercises of HOWARD UNIVERSITY on March 2, at which time alumni awards for distinguished post-graduate achievement were made to three Howard graduates.

Attorney Oliver W. Hill, the first Negro to be elected a member of the City Council of Richmond, Va., since 1888, received an award for distinguished post-graduate acheievement in law. Jesse H. Mitchell, president of the Industrial Bank of Washington, D. C., received an award for distinguished post-graduate achievement in business. And

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JOIN THE NAACP

Dr. Roderick Brown, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was honored for distinguished post-graduate achievement in medicine.

After making a tour of the Langley Air Force Base, Va., President Mordecai W. Johnson of Howard, reports that the Air Force is making a genuine effort to deal with Negro airmen stationed at the base on a strict basis of individual merit. "There are some rough edges which may form the basis of justifiable complaint," he added, "but they do not obscure the main conclusion which I have just stated."

■

The mining instructors conference met at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COL-

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The State College Wilberforce, Ohio

LEGE March 2-4 to discuss plans for a summer program. A West Virginia branch of The Association for the study of Negro Life and History has been organized under the direction of J. Reuben Sheeler, of the department of history.

On February 10 a surprise program, with presentation of gifts, was sponsored by the student council in honor of the birthday of President John W. Davis. On March 7 six Sears and Roebuck scholarships of $100 each were awarded to college freshmen for excellence in high-school work and agricultural projects.

Recent speakers before the college community include Dr. R. B. Atwood, president of Kentucky State college, who spoke on the civil rights of the Negro; Rabbi I. Shinedling, of Bluefield, W. Va., main speaker during brotherhood week; Dr. Edward Davison, poet and dean of Washington and Jefferson college, who gave six lectures on poetry; and J. Reuben Sheeler, of the college history department, who spoke on Negro history in celebration of Negro history week.

■

Harry W. Greene, director of teacher education and educational research at the college, participated in the regional teacher education conference of the National Education Association held in Washington January 20-21. Dr. Greene was a representative of both the West Virginia committee on teacher education, of which he is secretary, and the State Education Association.

The death of Barbara Ann Glenn, mathematics instructor, on December

(*Continued on page* 266)

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Book Reviews

STOREHOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE

***The American Peoples Encyclopedia:* A Comprehensive Modern-Minded Reference Work. Walter Dill Scott, chairman of the editorial board; Franklin J. Meine, editor-in-chief. Chicago: The Spencer Press, 1948. 20 volumes. Illus. pls. ports. maps. tables. charts. Library: buckram $120 less 20%.**

This is a handy encyclopedia to have around the home or the office. For the writer or intellectual worker who cannot afford one of the larger and more expensive encyclopedias and who wants immediate access to a wide range of information this is the book. Although "not a revision of *Nelson's Encyclopedia,*" this book has been "developed with *Nelson's Encyclopedia* as a background." The general pattern of the encyclopedia is the small topic, with many long articles on the more important subjects. There are also many short articles of the definition type.

Value of an encyclopedia is determined by its utility and its comprehensiveness. *The American Peoples Encyclopedia* meets both tests. Articles are written either by competent staff members or the best specialists in the field, and they range from Max Factor, Jr., who writes on make-up, to Albert Einstein, who explains his theory of relativity. Two Negro authorities, Alain Locke and St. Clair Drake, write on the Negro and Negro education, respectively. The book is printed by the offset process of photolithography, which makes for a clear page and easy reading. All pictures have been reproduced by the fine-screen halftone process. Volume I has color plates of all American presidents and an adequate explanatory guide to the other nineteen tomes.

Volume 20 contains an "Atlas of the World" and volume 10 twelve transparent plates showing the anatomy of the human body. Major topics and countries (archeology, astronomy, China, Mexico, *et. al.*) are illustrated with attractive color plates. Line maps show location of a country in relation to contiguous areas, and charts and drawings illustrate the operations of machines and processes. Cross references are generally adequate although "See White Slave Traffic," which follows the piece on "Prostitution," leaves the reader in mid-air so to speak, since no such entry is found in Volume 20. All the long articles are followed by useful bibliographies, usually of the latest titles. Incidentally, the bibliography on "Reconstruction" does not list Dr. Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction* nor two similar studies by A. A. Taylor.

There are many biographical entries for famous Negroes. A cursory examination turns up Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Joe Louis, W. E. B. Du Bois, George Washington Carver, Jack Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, John Rosamond Johnson, Booker T. Washington, Percy L. Julian, and Frederick Douglass.

A minor fault of the book is lack of

pronunciations. These would help immensely for many of the difficult foreign names. An index to the set would have helped too. The tone of objectivity of *The American Peoples Encyclopedia* is excellent, the general standards extremely high, and the material skillfully edited and arranged. For a moderate-priced encyclopedia you can't beat *The American Peoples Encyclopedia.*

J. W. I.

***Brazil: World Frontier.* By Benjamin H. Hunnicutt. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1949. VI+387 pp. $6.00.**

A simply written book on Brazil which reads like nothing so much as a Rotarian's report on the good life and natural advantages of his native state. If the reader knows little about Brazil, Mr. Hunnicutt's book will furnish him valuable outline information on the people and their land, their agriculture, their economic and mineral resources; their industry and commerce, and their education and culture. The last two chapters give a glance at Brazilian politics and government.

Although the author's forty-three years of residence in Brazil eminently qualifies him to write on his adopted country, it, nevertheless, does not explain his avoidance of many unpleasant realities. There is no mention of Brazilian problems of health, transportation, food production, employment, illiteracy, and so on. Brazil, for instance, has 21,295,490 illiterates out of a total population of 41,236,315. In the city of Ceará there are 1,260,910 illiterates in a population of 2,091,032. And the author can write about Rio de Janeiro as "the marvelous city" with never a reference to its squalid hill slums or its high tuberculosis rate.

Mr. Hunnicutt's population figures for 1940, quoted at page 16 and taken apparently from a preliminary population report of 1941, do not jibe with those of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics issued as recently as December, 1946.

LINGUISTICS

***Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect.* By Lorenzo Dow Turner. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1949. XI+317 pp. $7.50.**

Gullah or Geechee is a "creolized form of English" spoken by the Negroes of the coastal region of South Carolina and Georgia. It is distinctive among American dialects in being probably the only one that is unintelligible outside its own region.

In investigating this linguistic anomaly students have usually followed one of two theories: That Gullah is an archaic form of English based upon British dialects of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; or that it is an outgrowth of the baby-talk used by the masters in communicating with their slaves. Both explanations are erroneous and actually reflect the obtuse belief that "primitive" peoples are incapable of mastering the complex speech of a "higher" culture.

However, unlike such earlier investigators as George Philip Krapp, Ambrose Gonzales, Mason Crum, and others, all quite innocent of any knowledge of African languages, Dr. Turner first got a working knowledge of West African languages and then proceeded to make a fifteen-year on-the-spot study of Gullah as well as the African background from which these people are derived.

His researches prove that Gullah is not just a bastardized English but a speech form distinctly African in grammar, idiom, phonetics, and vocabulary. Dr. Turner has gathered some 4,000 loan words from more than twenty-one African languages. Most of them appear in Gullah as personal names;

others are used in conversation, stories, songs, and prayers.

Of the two personal names borne by most Gullahs, the "basket" or "nickname is nearly always a word of African origin." He records a few songs consisting wholly of African words, one being in the Mende tongue. Many Gullah stories likewise contain African words and phrases, often followed by their English equivalents.

Dr. Turner offers a plausible explanation for the survival of this African speech-island in a country noted for the homogeneity of its national language. Most of the slaves imported into eighteenth-century South Carolina came directly from Africa. Since the unhealthy climate of the Sea Islands prevented extensive white settlement, the population became preponderantly Negro. This made for the retention of African speech habits which came to be reinforced by the addition of "new" Africans and the relative isolation of the region from the mainland. "Even as late as 1932," says the author, "there were Negroes on some of the Sea Islands who have never visited the mainland."

Dr. Turner's book is an original contribution to American linguistic scholarship. He has done for Gullah what Renato Mendonça and Jacques Raimundo did for Afro-Brazilian; Suzanne Comhaire-Sylvain and Jules Faine for Haitian Creole; and Fernando Ortiz for Afro-Cuban. *Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect* squashes forever the assumption that Gullah is a "pidgin" dialect.

I miss in the bibliography one book which should be listed: Fernando Ortiz's *Glosario de Afronegrismos* (1924). Incidentally, the correct title of Romulo Lachatañere's study of the Afro-Cuban Lucumis cults is *Manual de Santeria* and not *Manual Santeria* as listed at page 299.

J. W. I.

WOMENFOLK AND THEIR MEN

***Male and Female:* A Study of the Sexes in a Changing World. By Margaret Mead. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1949. 477 pp. $5.00.**

***Sexual Freedom.* By Rene Guyon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1950. XIV+344 pp. $4.50.**

Dr. Mead's thesis is that the personality structures of males and females are culturally determined. That where societies "have styled the roles so they are fitted well together, so that law and custom, ideal and practical possibilities, were reasonably close together, the men and the women who lived within that society have been fortunate."

In support of this hypothesis Dr. Mead offers her findings from seven South Sea cultures, groups ranging socially from the simple to the complex, and in point of numbers from a few hundred to well-nigh a million.

The cultures she examines are quite unrelated. She contrasts the sexually permissive Samoans with the puritan Manus; the skittish males of the Lake-Dwelling Tchambuli with the virile, head-hunting Iatmul. The gentle Arapesh of the giggling boys jostle schizoid, artistic Balinese and the warlike Mundugumor. In one culture a boy is proud of being a male; in another he may envy his sister her fertility. One culture may emphasize the sex differences between parents and children whereas another will soften them. One mother may nurture her child. Another will delegate its care to a six-year-old sister.

Scientific examination of these patterns, Dr. Mead asserts, suggest "some of the ways in which different societies have twisted and distorted and over-emphasized, overvalued or devalued, membership in one sex or another." In a word, sex differences are relative and plastic.

What bearing have these findings on contemporary America? Dr. Mead be-

lieves that the insights derived from a study of these cultures will help us solve our sex and marriage problems, which she examines in part four of her book. Chief among these are our dating behavior, divorce, motherhood, and our invidious standards of achievement for men and women. The problem of work she regards as the most serious. For the more successful a woman is at her job the less successful she is likely to be as a woman. "Success for a woman means," the author admits, "success in finding and keeping a husband." But since men usually prefer mates who are inferior to themselves, the more successful woman has difficulty in getting and keeping her man.

This brief summary, however, oversimplifies the many complexities and the vast amount of information with which Dr. Mead buttresses her arguments. Nor does it mention the often curious information and the thought-provoking insights of the author into her material. Though this is a brilliant book, the reader turns away wondering if many of its findings can be put to profitable use in America.

Sexual Freedom, which is the English version of René Guyon's *La Liberté Sexuelle* (1933), was first published in England in 1939 and is the second volume in the author's monumental ten-volume "Studies in Sexual Ethics." Though Guyon's book complements in many respects *Male and Female*, it is written from an entirely different basis. Whereas Dr. Mead accepts our current sexual code, Guyon rejects it as absurd and unnatural. Dr. Mead believes that knowledge of sexual behavior in other cultures will help us to improve our own, but she never questions the fundamental principles of Western sexual morality. It is just here that the two authors part company. Guyon wants to substitute a code of utilitarian sexual ethics for our present religio-moral and metaphysical one.

Sexual Freedom continues the argument for sexual legitimacy advanced in *The Ethics of Sexual Acts*, the initial volume of the study. This thesis is that under the laws of a free people the voluntary sexual relationships of two adults, excluding of course deception, fraud, or brutality, are their sole affair. Society can legitimately intrdude only when there are children.

In developing his ideas, Guyon points out the bankruptcy of our system of sexual taboos and then outlines the basic principles of sexual freedom and its consequences. In subsequent chapters he criticizes the idea of sexual sublimation, points out the need for a revision of our anti-sexual vocabulary, and discusses the virtues and faults of Nudism at considerable length. He concludes with a discussion of the sexual parasitism of women, feminism, and the evils of jealousy.

This important book, which is for the first time available to American readers, should be read by every student of society. It packs plenty of dynamite, which perhaps explains why its sale was long forbidden in this country.

J. W. I.

★ ★ ★

"There are basic analogies between the status of women and Negroes. Both are only recently emancipated from an oppressive paternalism and caste rule designed to keep them in 'their place.' A place previously picked out for them. There has been much fulsome praise, more or less sincere, of both groups. The 'good Negro' with his primitive soul is praised for his simple child-like character and his smiling good humor; the 'really feminine woman' for her frivolity, her irresponsibility, her infantilism, and her submissiveness to man."

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

COLLEGE NEWS

(*Continued from page* 261)

22 leaves an important vacancy in the laboratory school of West Virginia State College. Miss Glenn, who had served as mathematics instructor in the laboratory school since 1947, was outstanding in her field. A native of Annapolis, Md., she finished Bates high school in 1941 and received a B. S. degree from Hampton Institute in 1945. She later won a M. S. degree in mathematics from Howard university.

A construction project, estimated to cost $1,200,000, is now under way on the campus of the college. It is sponsored jointly by the West Virginia Board of Education and the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation. Dr. John W. Davis, president of State College, has explained that the project will require several years for completion and will result in the reclaiming of approximately eight acres of land for the state by the filling in of a large ravine area on the northside of the campus. When filled in, the area is expected to accommodate an athletic stadium and a playground.

BLACK ANGELS

(*Continued from page* 225)

always resented her husband's Negro entertainer friends—the child is obviously Negroid both in coloring and in hair.

Ana Luisa has never been told her wealthy father had raised her as his legitimate daughter, but that in reality she was his daughter by his very black Negro servant woman. Her mother had agreed to the adaption for the sake of the child, had remained in the household as her nurse, and had promised not to reveal her true relationship to the girl. The wealthy father died, but Nana, the mother, remained as Ana Luisa's servant. Before Ana Luisa's marriage, she wished to tell her the truth of her origin, but feared to do so lest she spoil her daughter's happiness.

Since Ana Luisa is suffering so severely from the shock of the birth of a black baby, José Carlos agrees, after he learns the truth from her mother, to allow her to believe that he is the one who had colored blood. This deception persists for four years, during which time Ana Luisa treats her daughter with coldness amounting almost to cruelty. On the child's fourth birthday, a party is held for her. The mother refuses to participate and there is a bitter scene afterwards between husband and wife. (It is after this quarrel that the father sings the song *Angelitos Negros* to the saddened child.) The wistful pathos of the little girl, who does not understand her mother's treatment of her, becomes all the more poignant in a scene where she sees the mother fondle a friend's white baby. Sensing then the reason for her own rejection, the little girl goes upstairs and puts powder on her face, hoping thus to win a kiss.

BITTER QUARREL

This incident leads to another bitter domestic quarrel, as the father has always been without prejudice

and loves his little "cinnamon flower," as he calls her. Ana Luisa flounces out of the house, rudely pushing her mother aside as she goes, and thus accidentally causing her to fall down the stairs. The mother becomes ill from the injuries and the heartache; the child also becomes ill. José Carlos finally decides to tell Ana Luisa the truth about her parentage. Upon learning it she goes to her mother's bedside as she is dying; remorseful for her own behavior, she resolves to make up for her past conduct by loving her daughter. Thus the movie ends.

The death-bed scene is perhaps a melodramatic resolution of the situation; and the part of Ana Luisa is undoubtedly overplayed by the actress. One would wish, too, that the three major Negro roles (the child, the servant mother, and José Carlos' friend) had all been given to Negro actors instead of to white actors blackened for the part. But, whatever its imperfections and its faults, *Angelitos Negros* remains a compelling and a touching movie.

Perhaps the whole psychological problem in breaking down attitudes of race prejudice is the problem of making white people understand that the Negro Problem is not a remote mass sociological phenomenon, but rather a very close and a very personal thing, in which they themselves are often unconscious participants, and which deeply affects people very much like themselves who feel and love and suffer and aspire like themselves. The current cycle of Negro films in the United States, in showing individuals like Pinky, the soldier in *Home of the Brave*, and the doctor's family in *Lost Boundaries*, has done much to show that Negroes are just so many other human beings—interesting and worth-while human beings, facing the basic problems of life like anyone else except for the added and artificial difficulty of color. *Angelitos Negros* does this also, and it is perhaps particularly moving in that it shows the suffering of a beautiful little child because of the irrational race hatreds of her mother. The irony and irrationality of prejudice is all the more strongly underlined here in that the mother, though blonde and blue-eyed, is herself a "Negro" by virtue of blood descent.

MELODY PLAINTIVE

Though the movie *Angelitos Negros* will, with its forthcoming English sub-titles, very probably be successful in U. S. foreign-run film houses, it is doubtful if the song *Angelitos Negros* would ever become a hit tune in the United States, even if translated into English. It is doubtful because its melody is somehow too plaintive and fragile for the broad and brasher musical tastes of the American public. Its sentiments, too, are almost too poetic, too much out of alignment with the temper of American thinking. Americans are sentimental in their way; but somehow it is different from the way in which the Latin is sentimental.

And so one cannot help wishing that somewhere in the United States some poet-composer would write a song equally sensitive and searching and touching as *Angelitos Negros*, one that would use none of the clichés of brotherhood, but one that

from some fresh point of view would catch the feeling, in the American idiom, that Negroes and white men are deeply alike, deeply interrelated, deeply and equally beautiful in the palette of the Master Artist.

EXIT JIM CROW

(*Continued from page* 212)

ice organizations in the community with requests for cooperation of individuals and groups. The NAACP praised the action of the School Board. The East St. Louis Ministerial Alliance responded by voting to help the Citizen's Committee in the program of transferring Negro students without incident.

When the great day arrived, some parents of white pupils at the Alta Sita School, objecting to the new policy, kept their children at home on the opening day. The enrollment of the colored children, however, was accomplished without incident. Two white children were transferred to the Franklin elementary school, formerly all-Negro.

Already the athletic fortunes of the formerly all-white high school have been immeasurably improved by the change. A former Lincoln High School basketball star was welcomed with open arms by the coach of the E. St. Louis High School and played center on the cage team in its first game after his transfer to the school.

The change in policy has not only united the community but observers believe the dream of many citizens for advanced schooling may now be realized. For years, some citizens have urged the establishment of a much-needed junior college. Under the old policy of segregation, school authorities felt it economically infeasible to erect the junior college. Since integration, however, students and parents alike are talking about the possibility of building a junior college in the near future to permit advance training for white and Negro students alike at a reasonable tuition fee.

While the program of integration affects only a small number of E. St. Louis' 5,000 Negro pupils, it demonstrates that where expressly forbidden by law, segregation can be ended through a consistent and intelligent effort on the part of an aroused and alert citizenry.

SENATOR VIALLE

(*Continued from page* 208)

Chick Sale is representative of our own peasantry. Ubangi-Shari, whose capital is Bangui, produces cotton, peanuts, and cattle.

ILLITERACY AND POVERTY

Senator Vialle is a member of the Education and Overseas Territories Committees of the Council. Because she is convinced that women must play a great part in overcoming illiteracy and poverty in the underdeveloped countries, she found the Association des Femmes de l'Union Française, which finances the training in France of young girls from the Overseas Territories who wish to serve their people as teachers, nurses, or social workers. In the capital of

(*Continued on page* 270)

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many lawyers known to us is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. The Crisis maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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J. R. Booker
Century Building, Little Rock
Telephone: 2-4248

William A. Booker
Suite 410-12, 3456 S. State St., Chicago 16
Telephone: CAlumet 5-6914

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Telephone: 919

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Telephone: ADams 1-9737—ADams 1-6712

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Telephone: CAlumet 4968-4969

William Henry Huff
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SENATOR VIALLE

(*Continued from page* 268)

Bangui she sponsored a cooperative that is building brick and concrete houses to replace the primitive mud huts.

The UN committee of experts on which Senator Vialle served while in New York was appointed to study slavery in all its forms, including forced labor, peonage, and survivals of pure slavery. Other members were Poblete Troncosco, Chile; Bruno Lasker, United States; and C. W. W. Greenidge, United Kingdom.

Senator Vialle left for France on March 23.

PLAY BARRED

(*Continued from page* 229)

ana. The performance did not take place. Miss Webster then issued the following statement:

My sole interest in this matter has been an artistic one. I have brought to the colleges and to the people of the country Shakespeare's great works. We have encountered no difficulty in many southern cities which have welcomed this cultural enterprise. It was shocking to me therefore to find the ugly issue of the race problem raised in this matter at the Northwestern State College at Natchitoches, Louisiana. Mr. Louis Nizer, my attorney, and I sought to avoid this controversy by every means, but we could not surrender the principle involved and I am pleased to say that neither would the Actors' Equity Association.

It was only when every recourse to reason had failed that I felt the public ought to be apprised of this action by a state supported educational institution. From the experiences of our company in the South, I do not for one moment believe that the sensibility of the students would have been affected by the performance of this play with two fine Negro actors in the cast. I have the feeling that the college authorities have imposed their prejudices upon the students rather than vice versa, and that this may well be a case where the students are not going through the college but the college is going through the students.

I do not think the good citizens of the South will approve the action of this college, for they know that there is only one thing more expensive than education, and that is ignorance.

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